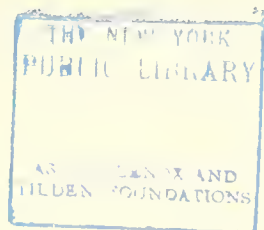


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J. Curtiss-Lodge.

THE HISTORY
OF
RENVILLE COUNTY
MINNESOTA

COMPILED BY
FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

Member of the Minnesota Historical Society, editor of the Histories of Winona,
Wright, Fillmore, Freeborn, Mower, Dakota, Rice, Steele
and Goodhue Counties, Minnesota.

ASSISTED BY
A LARGE CORPS OF LOCAL CONTRIBUTORS
UNDER THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF

HON. DARWIN S. HALL,
HON. DAVID BENSON and
COL. CHARLES H. HOPKINS,

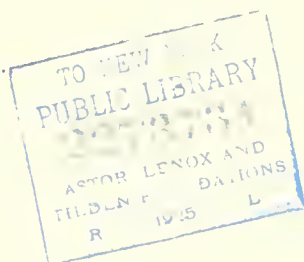
Renville County Pioneer Association Committee.

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME II

CHICAGO
H. C. COOPER JR. & CO.

1916



APPROVAL

At a meeting of the Pioneer Association of Renville County, held at Hector, in June, 1915, the undersigned were appointed, by that body, to aid and to assist the publishers of a HISTORY OF RENVILLE COUNTY, then in the course of preparation, to see that authentic history was written, that important events were not overlooked, that the traditions of early Renville county be as fully recorded as possible—in fact, to do any and all things within its power to the end that the history should be fully in keeping with the glorious and heroic deeds by which the county has attained its present prominence and prosperity, as well as to see that the volumes be bound in a substantial manner, guaranteeing their lasting qualities and comparing favorably with the bindings of other historical publications, and well-bound books generally.

This labor the "Old Settlers' Committee" has performed, we believe, to the best of its ability, though it has been at times decidedly strenuous. We have, to quite an extent, supervised, directed and assisted in the work; we have followed closely the gathering of the information and the laborious duty of selection and verification; we have read most of the manuscript and proofs of the entire work; we believe that it will be a valuable work of reference, one with which the subscribers will be pleased, and one that their children will thank them for, as the work becomes more valuable in years to come.

Messrs. H. C. Cooper Jr. & Co., publishers of the HISTORY OF RENVILLE COUNTY, and their editor, Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, have cheerfully taken up our suggestions and acted favorably in almost every instance.

This committee thought a lighter quality of paper would be better than that used in other histories issued by this company, and this committee selected the paper upon which the books are printed. The volumes are therefore thinner, but contain the same matter, less bulky and easier to handle.

This work was to have been completed nearly a year ago. At the request of this committee the time was extended and very much matter of historical interest secured and included in the work, making it more valuable in every way. We believe that few county histories have been gotten out with as much care as this HISTORY OF RENVILLE COUNTY.

The business end of the publication seems to be conducted in a straightforward way, the county has been canvassed in a gentlemanly manner by polite and courteous people.

To all the people of the county, especially to the old settlers, the patrons, and all seekers after historical information, we heartily recommend these volumes and urge their earnest and studious perusal.

DARWIN S. HALL,
DAVID BENSON,
CHARLES H. HOPKINS,

April 18, 1916.

Committee.

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CHAPTER XXIX.

BANKS AND BANKING.

Pioneer Financial Institutions—Past and Present Banks—Story of the Foundation Upon Which the Financial Stability of the County Is Established—History, Officers and Official Statements—Biography.

The first effort of the pioneer was to secure his location and to there erect a habitation. The question of livelihood was one of immediate importance, and no sooner was the pioneer and his family provided with a place in which to live, however poor or temporary, than he began to break the ground for crops. But even in the most primitive community, money is a vital need. The money lenders followed fast in the footsteps of the pioneer. Before long it became apparent that there must be some sort of an institution of financial exchange. Private banks were usually established as an adjunct of some other business by lawyers, real estate agents, grain dealers and others. Some continued for a few years only, but others gradually assumed the importance of national or state institutions. This, to a large extent, is true of the early history of Renville county. Today the county is on a sound financial basis, and the prosperity of the community is shown by the financial statements of the various banks which handle the money of the people at large. The county now has eighteen banks—three of these national banks, and fifteen state banks.

The national banks are: The First National Bank of Renville, The Peoples First National Bank of Olivia, and The First National Bank of Fairfax.

The State Banks are: State Bank of Buffalo Lake; Farmers State Bank of Buffalo Lake; State Bank of Bird Island; Renville County State Bank of Bird Island; Danube State Bank; State Bank of Fairfax; Citizens State Bank of Fairfax; State Bank of Franklin; Citizens State Bank of Franklin; State Bank of Hector; Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Hector; State Bank of Morton; New State Bank of Morton; Olivia State Bank; Farmers State Bank of Olivia; Renville State Bank; O'Connor Brothers State Bank of Renville; State Bank of Sacred Heart; Farmers State Bank of Sacred Heart.

The first bank in Renville county was a private bank, started at Beaver Falls, by Hans Gronnerud, and continued for many years. Donahue & Paine started a bank in Beaver Falls in 1878. They moved it to Bird Island, and in 1880 it was organized as the Renville County State Bank. This is still in existence and is the oldest bank in the county. The next banks in the county were the O'Connor Brothers, Bankers, of Renville (now known as the Renville State Bank), and the State Bank of Hector, both started in 1887. Edward O'Connor started a private bank at Sacred Heart in 1888. It is now the Farmers State Bank of Sacred Heart. In 1889, Peter W. Heims started the People's Bank at Olivia. This is now the Peoples First National Bank of Olivia. In 1889, a bank was started at Fairfax, with Dr. J. A. Beard, of Redwood Falls, as president, and F. A. Gray, as cashier. It failed in 1892.

There have been but two bank failures in Renville county, the failure of Hans Gronnerud's private bank at Beaver Falls, and the failure of the bank of Beard & Gray at Fairfax.

BANKS.

The Renville County State Bank of Bird Island is the oldest in the county. It was organized in 1878 at Beaver Falls as the private banking house of Donohue & Paine. In 1880 it was moved to Bird Island. In 1890 it was incorporated as the Renville County State Bank, by Mathew Donohue, Axel Richardson; C. L. Lorrain, Fred Hodgdon, F. Borchert, Frank Posely and J. W. Donohue, the capital stock being \$25,000.00. The first officers were: Mathew Donohue, president; J. W. Donohue, cashier. March 20, 1895, A. T. Dell became cashier and J. W. Donohue, president. May 26, 1904, Henry L. Simons became president; A. J. Richardson, vice-president; Amund Dahl, cashier; and H. W. Mielke, assistant cashier. January, 1906, Amund Dahl became president, Henry L. Simons and A. J. Richardson, vice-presidents and H. W. Mielke, cashier. In 1913 Henry L. Simons became president; A. J. Richardson, vice-president; H. W. Mielke, cashier, and W. H. Fewer and J. C. Desmond, assistant cashiers. The bank has a surplus of \$15,000, giving resources of over quarter of a million. The present bank was built in 1902. The bank conducts a liberal conservative banking business and well merits the high confidence with which it is regarded throughout the county. As the oldest financial institution in the county it well upholds its traditions of honor and stability.

Herman W. Mielke, prominent banker and citizen of Bird Island, was born in Glencoe, this state, Oct. 17, 1873, son of John and Caroline (Ettrich) Mielke, the pioneers. He attended the schools of his native place and at the age of fifteen started his career by securing employment on a farm. At the age of twenty-

one he entered mercantile life as clerk for a clothing store in Glencoe. It was in 1904 that he came to Bird Island as assistant cashier of the Renville County State Bank, a position he held until Jan 1, 1906, when he was made cashier. Mr. Mielke is one of the leading men of Bird Island, and an enthusiastic friend of every progressive movement. He has taken his part in many phases of public life and is regarded as a substantial, useful citizen in every way. His administration of the affairs of the oldest bank in Renville county has won him wide praise. Mr. Mielke is an officer of the Bird Island Commercial Club, and for five years was chairman of the park board. He is likewise an official of the local lodges of the Masonic and Modern Woodmen fraternities. His religious allegiance is paid to the German Lutheran Church. Mr. Mielke was married July 3, 1900, to Clara Knutson, born April 7, 1877, daughter of Amund and Carrie (Ekle) Knutson. John Mielke, born May 29, 1818, in Germany, died April 8, 1885. He married Caroline Ettrich, born Dec. 11, 1831; she died Feb. 17, 1915. They came to America May 30, 1862, and homesteaded in Sunter township, McLeod county, Minn., where they remained until his death. Amund Knutson married Carrie Ekle, who died June 7, 1915, her husband having died in 1895. He was one of the pioneers of Palmira township, where he devoted his time to farming.

The Renville State Bank of Renville was established in 1887. The bank was incorporated December 23, 1889. It opened for business as a state bank January 1, 1890. In 1907 S. M. Serkland and O. A. Stensvad acquired a controlling interest. The bank owns its building which was erected in 1892, and is a solid brick, two-story structure, the second story being used for an opera house. The present board is constituted as follows: O. A. Stensvad, president; L. Ahrenholz, vice-president; S. M. Serkland, cashier; F. H. Berning, assistant cashier, and R. W. Serkland, stenographer and clerk. Directors—O. A. Stensvad, S. M. Serkland, L. Ahrenholz, L. E. Lien, J. C. Jepson, all of Renville, Minn.

The Renville State Bank renewed its certificate of corporation November 17, 1914, at Renville, the following shareholders voting for the resolution: S. M. Serkland, O. A. Stensvad, J. C. Jepson, L. Ahrenholz, L. E. Lien, F. Berning, R. W. Serkland, Rudolph Stensvad, and A. S. Johnson.

Following is a statement of the condition of the bank at close of business on September 2, 1915: Resources, loans and discounts, \$262,826.53; overdrafts, \$167.06; bonds and securities, \$2,000.00; furniture and fixtures, \$3,050.00; banking house, \$7,500.00; expenses paid, \$4,068.84; interest and exchange paid, \$6,571.07; checks and cash items, \$277.32; due from banks, \$21,339.34; cash on hand, \$11,507.03; total cash assets, \$32,846.37; total, \$319,307.19. Liabilities—capital stock, \$25,000; surplus

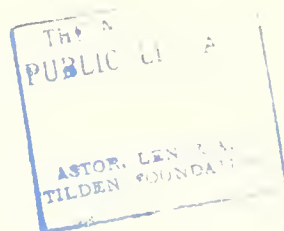
fund, \$5,000.00; undivided profits, \$3,725.42; interest and exchange received, \$9,169.42; time certificates of deposit, \$214,627.70; cashiers' checks, \$2,058.50; commercial deposits, \$56,608.40; public deposits, \$3,118.75; total immediate liabilities, \$61,885.65; total, \$319,307.19. Amount of reserve on hand, \$32,846.37. Amount of reserve required by law, \$18,145.60.

Ole A. Stensvad, president of the Renville State Bank, was born in Waseca county, Minnesota, January 17, 1876. His father, Andrew Stensvad, and his mother, Ingerbord Stensvad, were born in Norway, and emigrated to America and settled in Waseca county, Minnesota, as some of the first settlers, in the year of 1849, where they farmed extensively for over forty years. They raised a family of nine children. Ole A. Stensvad received his education in the country school and later attended school at New Richland, Minnesota. Upon leaving school, at the age of 18 years, he was employed as assistant buttermaker at Hartland, Minnesota, and the following winter completed a buttermaker's course at the Minnesota State Dairy School at St. Paul, Minnesota, and then was employed as buttermaker at the Smith's Mills, Minnesota. In the year 1895, together with two brothers, he purchased a line of several creameries in Sioux county, Iowa, and was engaged very extensively in the dairy and creamery business until the year of 1902. He then disposed of his entire creamery holdings and intended to retire from further business, but not being contented, he accepted a position with the De Laval Cream Separator Company as Minnesota representative, which position he held until the fall of 1907 when, with his associates, he purchased the Renville State Bank, and located at Renville, Minnesota, where he is an active officer, in addition to his extensive farming interests in Renville county. In 1900 he was married to Mabel E. Dodds, of Rock Valley, Iowa. Four children have blessed their union. He is a prominent member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church and is identified with local politics.

Siver M. Serkland, cashier of the Renville State Bank, was born in Juneau county, Wisconsin, September 5, 1866. His father, Peter P. Serkland was born near the village of Skien, Norway, and came to America with his wife Helene (Sigurdson) Serkland, in the year 1865, after eleven weeks of storms and hardships on a small sailing vessel, locating in Juneau county, Wisconsin. Two years afterwards he removed to Watonwan county, Minnesota, making the entire journey with oxen, and was one of the early pioneers of that county. He died several years ago, but the mother of our subject still lives at St. James, Minnesota. S. M. Serkland was brought to Watonwan county when less than two years old, where he was raised on a homestead near the river Watonwan. He spent his early boyhood on the farm, attending



LUBBERT AHRENHOLZ AND FAMILY



the district schools, and he also had a course at the Minneapolis public schools.

At the age of 21 he tired of farm work and accepted a position as weighmaster for the grain firm of W. P. Rempel & Brothers, who at that time owned a line of elevators along the Omaha division of the Northwestern Railroad, continuing the occupation with credit to himself and success to his employer for a period of three years, after which he accepted a position as cashier of the Old Bank of St. James, Minnesota, and conducted the bank successfully for a term of four years. In the campaign of 1894 the Republican party elected him to the office of register of deeds of Watonwan county, Minnesota, to which position he was re-elected for five successive terms. On May 18, 1891, he was united in marriage with Christine Bratrude, born and reared in Fillmore county, Minnesota, a daughter of Thor and Kjersti (Peterson) Bratrude, who still resides at Fountain, in Fillmore county, Minnesota. To this union have been born two sons and one daughter, Reuben Willard, now bookkeeper and stenographer with the Renville State Bank; Walter Thomas, a high school student at Renville, and Alta Marguerette Christine, a pupil in the Renville schools. In the winter of 1905, S. M. Serkland and wife was sight-seeing in the southern states, spending a portion of the winter in Havana, Cuba. In the fall of 1907 he moved to Renville, Minnesota, and purchased a large interest in the Renville State Bank, and chose the position as cashier of the bank, which has thrived and prospered under his careful management. S. M. Serkland and family are all Lutherans, and members of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod Church at Renville, Minnesota.

Socially, Mr. Serkland is a member of the I. O. O. F. and M. W. A.; his politics is Republican. Besides banking, he finds time to operate several fine farms, in which he is largely interested. He stands well in the community and has held the office of city treasurer since the spring of 1908.

Lubbert Ahrenholz, a well known citizen of Renville, was born in Germany, December 1, 1851, son of Arnt and Elska (Simmerman) Ahrenholz. His parents were farmers, who lived and died in Germany. There were eight children in the family: Henry, Bye, George (deceased), Haren, Lubbert, George, Foke and Herman (deceased). Lubbert and Henry were the only ones to come to United States, leaving in 1868, and coming to New York. They had received their early education in Germany and left with the purpose of establishing new homes for themselves. They had intended to come to Stevenson county, Illinois, where they had an uncle, who had sent them money for the trip. They worked out on the farms of the neighbors and after five years Lubbert left for Iowa, where he located on a farm in Butler county. He rented this farm for about twelve years and then

moved to Minnesota, going to Renville county and locating in Crooks township, section 5, on a tract of 160 acres of wild prairie land. They built a frame house, 14 by 22 feet, and a small barn, the posts being set into the ground and boards nailed around them. He owned a team of horses. Here he lived until 1910, when he moved to Renville. During this time he increased his farm until he had 760 acres and built a modern house and barn. He kept good stock and raised some fruit. Mr. Ahrenholz was road overseer for three or four years and also supervisor for six years. He served as treasurer of the school district twenty-three years. He helped organize the new school district known as No. 105, and helped build the schoolhouse. He is a member of the Farmers' Elevator Company of Renville, holding the office of director. He is a shareholder of the Renville State Bank and is its vice president. He is also a member of the Christian Reformed church and was one of its organizers and officers. Mr. Ahrenholz was married in 1874 to Elska Ahrenholz, born in Germany and died at the age of sixty-two years. Seven children were born to this union: George, the oldest boy, who is now farming on the old home place, married Gertrude Hoogerman and they have a daughter, Ella. Arnt married Anna Sejyer. They have two children: Lubbert and Fred. Fritz married Reka Schultz. They have a daughter, Anna. Elzena married Michael Groote and has two children: Freda and Ella. Enalena, now deceased, married John Korthuse. They have had five children: George, Ella, Mary, Dena and Lubbert. Ella married Edward Devries and has two children, Etta and Ella.

The State Bank of Hector was incorporated July 20, 1887, and commenced business August 1, 1887. The first officers were: G. K. Gilbert, president; W. D. Griffith, vice-president; A. R. Gress, cashier; G. K. Gilbert, A. R. Gress, W. D. Griffith, O. F. Peterson, Wm. Ebert, H. A. Reed and W. C. White, directors. The changes in office from 1893 up to the present time are as follows: January, 1893, G. S. Eichmiller became assistant cashier and C. H. Nixon was elected a director to fill the place of W. C. White. January, 1894, G. S. Eichmiller became cashier in place of A. R. Gress and H. A. Reed became assistant cashier. G. S. Eichmiller's name was added to the list of directors. January, 1906, John Hokanson succeeded W. D. Griffith as vice-president and director and H. L. Torbenson succeeded H. A. Reed as assistant cashier. A. R. Gress again becomes a director of the bank and A. B. Anderson and H. S. Deming were also made directors. In January, 1915, the officers and directors are as follows: G. K. Gilbert, president; A. B. Anderson, vice-president; G. S. Eichmiller, cashier; H. L. Torbenson, assistant cashier; G. K. Gilbert, G. S. Eichmiller, A. B. Anderson, H. S. Deming, A. P. Anderson,



G. S. EICHMILLER



H. A. Reed and Andrew Anderson, directors. G. K. Gilbert has been president since the organization of the bank.

Following is a report of the condition of the bank at close of business Dec. 31, 1887: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$20,869.63; due from banks, \$4,808.46; real estate, furniture and fixtures, \$3,678.34; current expenses, \$909.75; cash on hand, \$2,306.54; total, \$32,572.72. Liabilities—Capital stock, \$25,000.00; undivided profits, \$1,251.15; deposits, \$6,321.57; total, \$32,572.72. Following is a report of the bank at close of business Sept. 8, 1915: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$222,882.39; overdrafts, \$86.55; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$6,000.00; due from banks, \$15,609.43; checks and cash items, \$23.80; cash on hand, \$15,022.50; total, \$259,624.67. Liabilities—Capital stock, \$25,000.00; surplus fund, \$15,000.00; undivided profits, \$3,914.02; dividends unpaid, \$35.00; deposits, \$215,675.65; total, \$259,624.67.

George S. Eichmiller, the popular cashier of the State Bank of Hector, was born in a log cabin in Carver county, Minnesota. He first saw the light of day on August 16, 1858, and is the son of Michael and Lena (Utz) Eichmiller. He attended the country district school, and later the Franklin public school at St. Paul, Minn., and completed his education at the St. Paul Business College. In the spring of 1879 he began his business career, his first position being that of bookkeeper in the hardware store of Muldoon Bros., at Hammond, Wisconsin, where he remained until January, 1880, when he entered the employ of J. Preiss & Son, of Glencoe, Minn. For two years he kept the books for this firm, when he severed his connection with the firm and opened a general merchandise store at Glencoe, under his own name. Four years later he sold this business and went to Lake City, Minn., for a short time in 1886. Returning to Glencoe he worked for others until 1891, when he came to Hector, Minn., began work for Peterson Lunder & Co., as bookkeeper. He remained with this firm until January 1, 1893, when he accepted the position of assistant cashier of the State Bank of Hector, becoming cashier a year later. He is a stockholder in the State Bank of Hector, treasurer and stockholder in the Hector Elevator Co., treasurer and stockholder of the Hector Telephone Exchange, stockholder in the Twin City Fire Insurance Co., of Minneapolis, Minn., he was president of the village council of Hector for seven years. He votes the Republican ticket. On September 9, 1885, Mr. Eichmiller was married to Alice M. Dean, daughter of Franklin B. and Verlinda (Smith) Dean. Their first daughter, Grace Elinor, was born June 24, 1886, and died August 14, 1886. Their second daughter, Verlinda May, was born March 11, 1889. She is a graduate of the Hector High school, of Carlton College, Northfield, Minn., and of the domestic science department of the Uni-

versity of Chicago, and is now a domestic science teacher at Leeds, North Dakota.

Michael Eichmiller was born in Germany and married Lena Utz, born in Germany. They came to America in a sailing vessel in 1851, their voyage taking sixty-two days. For a short time they lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, leaving there for Carver county, Minnesota, where Mr. Eichmiller took up a homestead in the timber, cleared part of it and built a log cabin. The cabin was a small one, and was shingled with the bark from the trees, and it was here that his son George was born. Mr. Eichmiller was killed in December, 1857, by a tree falling on him, while clearing his land, so George never saw his father. They had one other child in addition to George, a daughter, Margaret, born January 4, 1856, now Mrs. Kloos, who lives in Grant county, Minnesota, where her husband is a prosperous farmer.

Henry L. Torbenson, assistant cashier of the State Bank of Hector, was born October 30, 1874, in McLeod county, Minnesota, son of Thomas and Caroline (Olson) Torbenson. He completed the work in the public school and attended the seminary at Willmar, Minn. After that he came to Hector and for three years taught school in the winter and farmed in the summer. Then he worked with the Johnson Hardware Company, of Hector, for two years. The next two years he was bookkeeper in the Hector State Bank after which he assumed the duties of his present position. In politics he is a Republican and for the past ten years has been the village treasurer. In 1914 he was made a member of the school board and is still serving. He is doing efficient work as secretary of the local telephone company. Fraternally he is a member of the Hector Lodge, No. 158, A. F. & A. M. He is also a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Torbenson was united in marriage July 2, 1907, to Eva Griffith, born January 17, 1886, at Beaver Falls, Minn., daughter of William D. and Alberta Griffith, and to this union one child, Lyle, was born February 18, 1912.

The Farmers' State Bank of Sacred Heart was established by Ed. O'Connor. He opened for business Nov. 28, 1888, in McGregor's lumber office on the railroad right of way. This building has been moved and is now used as a cobbler's shop by former Sheriff Hans Field. The bank was later moved to lot B, block 11, before it was taken to its present location. F. G. Neller-moe was the first cashier. After him came Mary O'Connor, who served some fourteen years. The first depositor in the bank was Karenus O. Agre. The institution was incorporated as a state bank, March 13, 1905, by the following: Edward O'Connor, John L. Johnson, Randolph Arnold, Timothy O'Connor, Nelson L. Johnson, Herman O. Skalbcek, Andrew H. Anderson, John S. Olson, Martin J. Larson, Eric Dosseth, Edward Paulson, Carl G. Hillard, Jerome

H. Titus, Haagen O. Agre, Lars Milsten, Anton O. Skrukud, Martin E. Doeken, Harold C. Omholt, Albert E. Doeken, Renholt H. Nelson, Osmund K. Osmundson, John I. Johnson, Ole C. Sparsstad, Helge J. Svein, Gunerius O. Bergan, Mary Asher, Mary O'Connor, Ole P. Sveiven, and Ole P. Skeggeby. The bank began with a capital of \$25,000. The first board of directors were Edward O'Connor, Anton O. Skrukud, Haagen O. Agre, Carl G. Hillard, Herman O. Skalbeck. The board at present is constituted as follows: Edward O'Connor, president; Timothy O'Connor, vice president; Oscar Olufson, cashier; C. M. Olufson, assistant cashier. Directors—Edward O'Connor, Sacred Heart, Minn.; Wm. O'Connor, T. O'Connor, Renville, Minn.; H. O. Agre, A. O. Skrukud, Sacred Heart, Minn.

A recent publication has said: "The Farmers' State Bank was started in 1888 by Ed. O'Connor, and has been under his personal supervision ever since, barring a five-year period, from 1905 to 1910, when he went to North Dakota to put through some big land colonization deals, which took his entire time. The Farmers' State Bank has withstood all the changes of time in the past twenty-seven years, has passed through the panicky times of 1893 and again in 1907, remaining in the best financial condition through it all, and coming out, figuratively speaking, with drums beating and colors flying. Today its stockholders aggregate a personal responsibility of over \$2,000,000. Many of our best and most prosperous and wealthy farmers are shareholders in this bank, adding much to its popularity. It is now the largest and strongest bank in Renville county and frequently carries upwards of \$500,000 in deposits. It, therefore, at all times has ample funds to accommodate all patrons and to finance all their legitimate undertakings. Not only is Ed. O'Connor himself and his brothers, Timothy and William, of Renville, who are associated with him in this institution, all thorough bankers and constitute, with H. O. Agre and A. O. Shrukud, a board of directors that actually directs, but they have called in and put in charge of their bank two brothers, Oscar Olufson, cashier, and C. M. Olufson, assistant cashier, who are carefully trained, energetic, and practical bankers, with whom it is a pleasure to deal. They have had many years of experience in the banking business and are now well acquainted with local conditions, the cashier having worked in this bank since 1911. A dominant civic spirit runs through the doings of this institution. They are leaders in community work and every good enterprise and undertaking has at once and without question their moral and material support. Nor is any unfortunate or needy individual of the community ever turned away without cheerful and generous assistance."

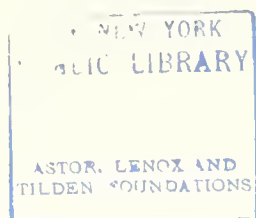
Following is a statement of the condition of the bank at the close of business June 23, 1915: Resources—loans and discounts,

\$333,624.78; overdrafts, \$386.59; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$7,850; cash and due from banks, \$134,539.68; total, \$476,401.05. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus, \$45,000; undivided profits, \$1,990.82; deposits, \$429,410.23; total, \$476,401.05.

Edward O'Connor, banker, man-of-affairs, and leading citizen, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, September 11, 1861, son of James and Elizabeth (Erickson) O'Connor. He was taken to Forest City, Iowa, at the age of six years and there received his school training. It was in the fall of 1880 that he came to Sacred Heart and soon after started his career here as a grain buyer. Since 1884 his interests have been largely identical with those of the O'Connor Brothers, bankers and land owners. Mr. O'Connor is now president of the Farmers State Bank of Sacred Heart, the McGrath State Bank of McGrath, Minnesota, and the Devils Lake State Bank of Devils Lake, North Dakota. In spite of his busy life, Mr. O'Connor has found time for public service for fifteen years as president of the village of Sacred Heart. Fraternally he affiliates with the Odd Fellows at Renville, the United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen at Sacred Heart, and the Knights of Columbus at Minneapolis. In politics he is a Democrat. A recent publication has said: "Ed O'Connor came a poor boy from Iowa in 1880. He started as a well driller and has worked in various businesses since, but whatsoever he has taken hold of it has prospered and he has made a success of it. Failure is unknown to him. He is energetic and a hard worker and still personally looks after his own affairs as he always has done in the past. He has built up a remarkable record of achievement from small beginnings, until he together with his brothers now exceed in real estate holdings and in amount of taxes paid on same any other firm in Renville county. Most of his money has been made in real estate, and he has, perhaps, done more than any single person to advance the prices of our lands from \$20 per acre to \$100. For all his opulence, Ed O'Connor is the same unspoiled man today that he was before he made his wealth. Simple in tastes and democratic in ideal and spirit, he associates freely and on equal footing with farmer, merchant or laborer that comes to his bank. He believes in fair and square dealing only, and his boast is that he never did business with a man but that he could do business with him again." Mr. O'Connor was married October 27, 1879, to Minnie Blowers, born at Forest City, Iowa, April 28, 1865, daughter of John and Sarah (Belt) Blowers. Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor have been blessed with seven children: Birdie, Mary, William, Pearl, Wallace, Delilah and Margaret. Birdie was born February 25, 1881. She married T. O. Ramsland, now of Lemmon, South Dakota, and has four children: Evert, Norman (deceased), Otis and James. Mary was born November 21, 1882,



EDWARD O'CONNOR



and married Albert Brennon, of Chicago. William was born October 21, 1885, farms in Hawk Creek township, married Iva Lawrence, and has three children, Maurice, Pearl and Virgil. Pearl was born February 3, 1889, and married Herman Tufft, of Hawk Creek township. Wallace was born July 22, 1894, farms in Hawk Creek township, married Jeanette Dunlevy, and has one child, Ruth Ann. Delilah, born January 28, 1898, is a student at St. Catherine's College at St. Paul. Margaret, born February 7, 1905, attends the Sacred Heart schools. The family faith is that of the Catholic church, the services of that denomination since the earliest days having been held at the O'Connor residence. John Blowers was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and devoted his life to farming and to the practice of veterinary surgery. He died September 16, 1885. His wife, Sarah Belt, born in Indiana, is still living, now making her home in Iowa. In the Blowers family there were eight children: Polly, Robert, Minnie, Olive and Nettie, who are living, and George, Thomas and Charles, who are dead.

The Peoples First National Bank of Olivia dates from 1889, when a private bank was started under the name of the Peoples Bank, with P. W. Heins as president and C. W. McMinds as cashier, these two being the sole owners. It was thus conducted until the state law compelled all private banks to organize. The Peoples First National Bank was accordingly incorporated, March 3, 1908, by C. A. Heins, Warren H. Heins, B. F. Byers, W. J. Heaney and E. G. Heins, who also became the first board of directors. The first officers were: C. A. Heins, president; Warren H. Heins, vice president; E. G. Heins, cashier; and A. N. Nelson, assistant cashier. January 1, 1914, B. F. Byers succeeded Warren H. Heins as vice president, he in turn succeeding E. G. Heins as cashier. A. N. Nelson was elected a director. January 1, 1915, Warren H. Heins resigned and was succeeded by A. N. Nelson as cashier, and Albert Paulson became assistant cashier. John Mehlhouse became a director. The present officers are: C. A. Heins, president; B. F. Byers, vice president; A. N. Nelson, cashier, and A. Paulson, assistant cashier; C. A. Heins, B. F. Byers, A. N. Nelson, W. J. Heaney, John Mehlhouse, directors. The bank believes in honest dealings to all and in treating all patrons alike. This institution, one of the oldest in the county, has done much for the development of the county and is taking an active part in every move for the progress of the community. C. A. Heins, the owner of the controlling interest, and the present president, is the oldest son of P. W. Heins, the founder of the institution, and he has taken pride in preserving the spirit so long maintained by his honored forebear.

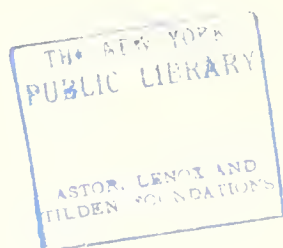
Following is a report of the condition of the Peoples First National Bank at Olivia at the close of business December 31,

1915: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$273,479.75; overdrafts, \$272.84; United States and other bonds, \$9,250.00; stock in Federal Reserve Bank, \$900.00; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$2,000.00; real estate owned other than banking house, \$19,200.00; cash due from banks and United States treasury, \$36,962.21; total, \$342,064.80. Liabilities—Capital stock paid in, \$25,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$9,704.08; circulating notes, \$6,250.00; deposits, \$265,800.36; rediscounts, \$15,310.36; bills payable, including obligations representing money borrowed, \$20,000.00; total, \$342,064.80.

Peter W. Heins, for many years a leader in Renville county life, was born near Hamburg, Germany, December 3, 1846, son of Christian Heins, who brought the family to America in 1851, locating at Iowa. There were five boys in the family who all located in Louisa county, Iowa, Chris, Henry, Peter, Ferdinand and John, the last two named being veterans of the Civil war. Peter grew to manhood and taught school. He also worked in the saw mills at Minneapolis for a short period. In the spring of 1870 he came to Beaver Falls, Renville county, and with his brother John built a general store for hardware, groceries and crockery. This was afterwards changed to a hardware store exclusively. In 1878 Peter W. started a hardware store in Olivia. In 1880 he brought his family to Olivia and took Gustavus McClure into partnership, in the Beaver Falls business. He also had a store at Renville, under the name of Heins & Company, and one at Morton under the name of Keefe, Heins & McClure. In 1889 B. F. Byers bought half interest in the Olivia store and it became Heins & Byers. Mr. Heins was among the first to settle in Olivia. He platted an addition to the village and held many leading offices. In 1889 the Peoples Bank, a private institution, was organized and Mr. Heins became the president with C. W. McMinder as cashier. In March, 1908, the Peoples Bank was merged into the Peoples First National Bank with C. A. Heins as president. Peter W. Heins was one of the organizers of the Melbourne State Bank, Florida, which was later removed to Fort Pierce, Florida, and is now the Bank of Fort Pierce. He was a stockholder in this bank at the time of his death. Mr. Heins was chairman of the county seat committee for twenty-five years. The purpose of this committee was to get the court house removed from Beaver Falls to Olivia, which was accomplished. The overwhelming responsibilities and worry connected with this position affected Mr. Heins to such an extent that it caused him to fail in health, and possibly shortened his life. He was a member of the Olivia Lodge No. 220, A. F. & A. M. He was a communicant of the Methodist Episcopal church and helped establish the early church. He was greatly interested in school work. Mr. Heins was united in marriage December 29, 1842, to Margaret Jane Patterson of Indiana, third child of William and

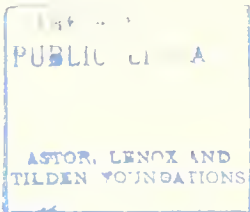


MR. AND MRS. F. W. HEINS





C. A. HEINS



Mary Jane (Campbell) Patterson. Mrs. Patterson was a great church worker and before her marriage was a school teacher. She died in 1904 at the age of fifty-six. Mr. Heins died in May, 1902, in his fifty-sixth year. Six children were born to these parents, Charles A., Elva (deceased), Walter (deceased), Minnie (deceased), Warren H., and one unnamed who died in infancy. Charles A. is president of the Peoples First National Bank of Olivia. Warren H. is in the hardware business and a member of the firm of Heins & Byers.

Charles A. Heins, business man and banker of Olivia, was born at Beaver Falls, this county, October 22, 1873, and was educated in the public schools, Hamline University at Midway, and the Curtis Business College at Minneapolis. In 1897 he entered his father's bank as bookkeeper and three years later became the vice president, a position he held until 1904, when he became president. He was also connected with the hardware business until 1915. In 1904 he organized and became the president of the Canning Factory at Olivia. He has been a member of the State militia since 1897, and for eleven years, from 1901 to 1912, served as first lieutenant. During the Spanish-American war he enlisted as a private in the Fourteenth Minnesota Volunteers and was promoted to quartermaster sergeant. For three years he served on the village council. He is a member of the Olivia Lodge No. 220, A. F. & A. M., of Olivia, St. Paul Chapter No. 1, R. A. M., of St. Paul, Osman Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of St. Paul, and the Damascus Commandery No. 1, K. T., of St. Paul. Mr. Heins was united in marriage April 22, 1901, to Verna Cole, of St. Paul, Minnesota, daughter of Frank and Caroline (Farley) Cole, of Blue Earth county. Mr. Cole was born in England. Mrs. Cole's father was a Virginian of English descent and her mother was of Norwegian parentage. Mr. and Mrs. Heins have one child, Charles, born October 6, 1908. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The State Bank of Fairfax was incorporated November 16, 1891. The incorporators were: Carl Hornburg, Luther H. Niehols, E. F. Sell and L. T. Grady. The first officers were: President, Carl Hornburg; vice-president, E. F. Sell; cashier, L. T. Grady. The bank opened for business November 16, 1891, in the building which it built that year. In 1909 the building was enlarged by adding a room in the rear and in 1911 an extra story was built. The present officers are: President, J. W. Schramm; vice-president, Charles Lammers; cashier, A. E. Carver, and assistant cashier, B. J. Schramm. The Security Bank of Fairfax was absorbed February 1, 1895.

Following is a statement of the condition of the bank at the close of business on June 23, 1915: Resources—loans and discounts, \$168,814.21; overdrafts, \$1,088.73; banking house, fur-

niture and fixtures, \$9,450; other real estate, \$6,200; due from banks, \$8,037; cash on hand, \$7,599.62; total cash assets, \$15,636.62; checks and cash items, \$4,535.49; total, \$205,725.05. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus, \$30,000; undivided profits, net, \$1,740.30; deposits, \$173,984.75; total, \$205,725.05. Amount of reserve on hand, \$20,172.11; amount of reserve required by law, \$8,340.49.

Julius W. Schramm, a leading banker of Fairfax, was born in Germany December 5, 1855, son of Karl G. and Johanna (Fenske) Schramm. The family came to America in 1856 and in 1857 Karl G. Schramm started a general store in New Ulm in company with his brother-in-law, Henry Schalk, which they operated for only a short time. After selling out his interest in this store Karl G. Schramm bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Milford township, Brown county, to which he moved and where he lived until 1875. In 1871 he opened a general store in New Ulm with Michael Redman, under the firm name of Redman & Schramm. Each partner was to furnish a man in the store and Julius W. Schramm took his father's place in the store and managed his father's interest until 1879. In the meantime the father in 1875 moved from the farm to New Ulm, where he lived until about 1891, when he moved to Fairfax, where he remained until his death, August 29, 1899, at the age of sixty-seven. Mrs. Johanna (Fenske) Schramm died January 1, 1913. In 1879 Julius W. Schramm bought his father's interest in the store and remained there with Mr. Redman until the store was destroyed by the cyclone which demolished a part of the city in 1881. Mr. Schramm was severely injured in this storm. After his recovery he worked as a clerk in a general store in Albert Lea until 1886, after which he spent four years in a general store in St. Paul. Mr. Schramm came to Fairfax in 1891 and bought a half interest in the general store of Emil F. Sell, where he remained until 1900, at which time he became president of the State Bank of Fairfax, which position he still holds. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they take an active part. Mr. Schramm was married on October 19, 1881, to Minnie Redman, a daughter of Michael and Henrietta (Breitkrentz) Redman. Mr. Redman was a pioneer merchant of New Ulm, the one who has been mentioned as being connected with the Schramms in the general mercantile business at that place. He died in 1881 at the age of fifty-six years. His widow is still living at the age of eighty-five years and makes her home with her daughter Anna, Mrs. Charles Ferke, at Sleepy Eye, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Schramm have four children. The eldest, Estella J., is married to Frank Hopkins, of Fairfax, a prominent attorney of Renville county. They have three chil-

dren: Ora, Lois and Wayne. The second child, Edna H., is a teacher in the Fairfax public schools. She is a graduate of the Fairfax High school and of the Winona State Normal school. The third child, Minnie J., is a graduate of the Fairfax High school and of the Swedish Hospital of Minneapolis and is now a visiting nurse for the city of Minneapolis. The fourth child, and the youngest, Benjamin J., is a graduate of the Fairfax High school and of the Minneapolis Business college, and has been assistant cashier in the State Bank of Fairfax since July, 1913.

Albert E. Carver, a prominent banker and business man of Fairfax, was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, August 19, 1868, son of Thomas C. and Lucretia (Foote) Carver. His father was a farmer and died in August, 1911, at the age of sixty-eight years. His mother is still living at the age of sixty-five years at Ft. Dodge, Iowa. At the age of thirteen Albert E. Carver went to work in a blacksmith shop. After two years of this kind of work he became a clerk in a general store at Kalo, Iowa, where he remained for two years. He attended a business college at Ft. Dodge and graduated in 1887, becoming bookkeeper for Anton Rank, the bookbinder in Ft. Dodge. During this time he studied shorthand by himself and became a stenographer. For two years he assisted A. E. Clark, attorney in Ft. Dodge, coming to Minneapolis with him in 1889, when he became the general attorney for the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad. After serving in the law offices of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad for two years he resigned and opened a public stenographer's office in Minneapolis, which he operated for two years. In 1893 Mr. Carver came to Fairfax and started the Security Bank, of which he became cashier. In 1895 this was consolidated with the State Bank of Fairfax and he became the assistant cashier, becoming cashier in 1896, which position he still holds. Mr. Carver has been village recorder for ten years and member of the village school board for fifteen years. He is a member of Fairfax Lodge No. 261, A. F. & A. M., and has passed through all the chairs. He is now treasurer and senior steward. April 26, 1894, Mr. Carver was married to Mary O'Hara, daughter of James and Johanna (Ganey) O'Hara, Mr. O'Hara being a pioneer farmer. Six children have been born to this marriage: Raymond, born March 27, 1895; Harold, born February 3, 1897, and died in 1904; Esther, born March 20, 1898; Eunice, born October 10, 1900; Lucretia, born October 20, 1903, and Lyall, born October 12, 1905.

The Security Bank of Renville was incorporated on September 1, 1892, and opened for business in the Lee block, now occupied by the F. A. Schafer furniture store. The first officers were: President, W. D. Spaulding; vice president, L. E. Lien; cashier,

J. L. Johnson; directors, F. M. Rich, C. M. Reese, Paul C. Brevig, L. E. Lien, J. L. Johnson, P. Pederson and W. D. Spaulding. G. J. Lee succeeded W. D. Spaulding as one of the directors in 1894 and at the same time C. M. Reese became president. In 1895 Paul C. Brevig and L. E. Lien retired from the board of directors; W. H. Gold became vice president and H. N. Stabeck cashier, while J. H. Dale became one of the directors. W. H. Gold became president in 1896, H. J. Dale vice president and H. N. Stabeck cashier. C. M. Reese retired from the board of directors. It was this year that the bank was moved to its own building, which it has since occupied. The directors for 1896 consisted of F. M. Rich, J. H. Dale, H. J. Dale, W. H. Gold, H. N. Stabeck, P. Pederson and G. J. Lee. In 1898, M. L. Helgersen became assistant cashier. In 1899 the number of directors was reduced to five and F. M. Rich and P. Pederson retired. In 1902 H. N. Stabeck became president and A. A. Bennett cashier.

The First National Bank of Renville took the place of the Security Bank, January 17, 1903. At that time the officers were: President, H. N. Stabeck; vice presidents, F. O. Gold and H. J. Dale; cashier, A. A. Bennett; directors, H. N. Stabeck, H. J. Dale, W. H. Gold, F. O. Gold and G. J. Lee. In 1905, A. A. Bennett succeeded G. J. Lee as a director. F. O. Gold succeeded H. N. Stabeck as president in 1907. The next year, H. J. Dale became president and J. H. Dale vice president. A. A. Bennett continued as cashier. The directors were these three gentlemen with M. C. Dale and A. C. Bennett. Since then there has been no change in the officers.

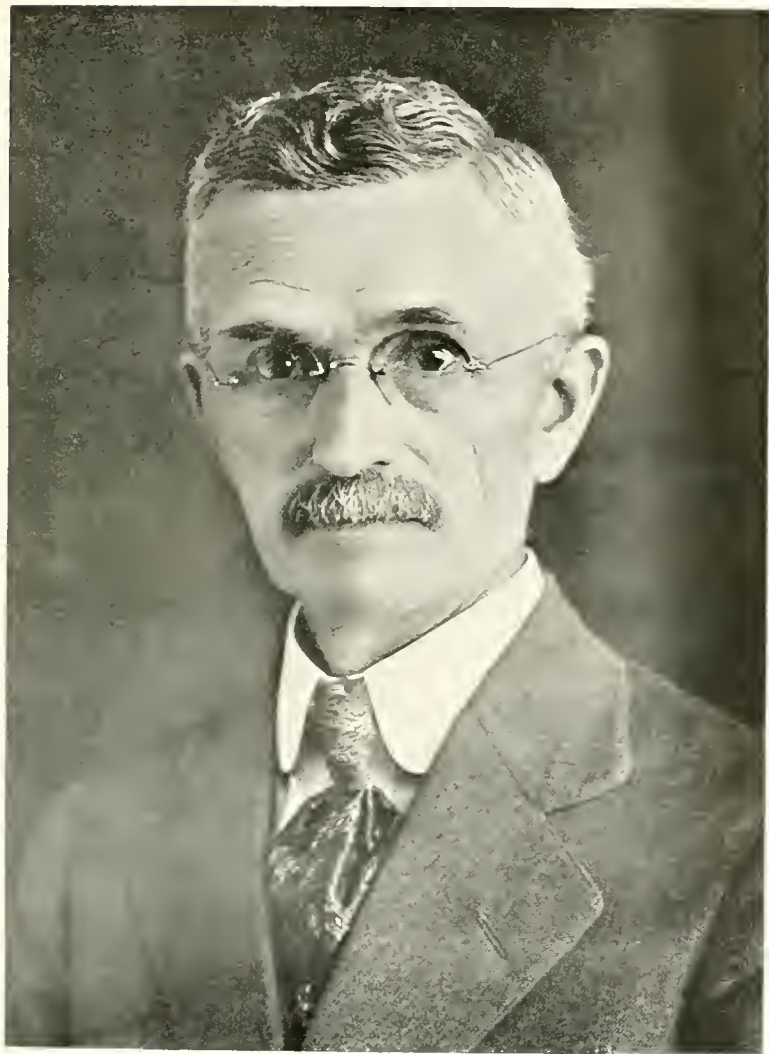
Following is a report of the condition of the First National Bank of Renville at the close of business November 10, 1915: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$295,518.92; overdrafts, \$831.85; United States and other bonds, \$26,000.00; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$8,000.00; stock in Federal Reserve Bank, \$1,050.00; cash due from banks and United States treasury, \$37,657.61; total, \$369,058.38. Liabilities—Capital stock, \$25,000.00; surplus and undivided profits, \$26,287.58; circulation, \$25,000.00; deposits, \$287,270.80; rediscounts, \$5,500.00; total \$369,058.38.

H. J. Dale, president of the First National Bank of Renville, was born in Lyster, Norway, November 16, 1849, son of Jorgen P. and Martha L. (Larson) Dale, who brought him to Vernon county, Wisconsin, in 1860. In 1868 he went to Sparta, Wisconsin, where he clerked in a store and attended school. In 1874 he came to Willmar in this state, and with P. H. Rose engaged in the general mercantile business, continuing in this line for some twenty years. In 1885 he became interested in J. H. Dale & Co. of Renville, and in 1894 sold out his interests at Willmar and moved here. A year later he became interested in the Security State Bank, which is

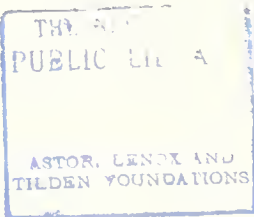


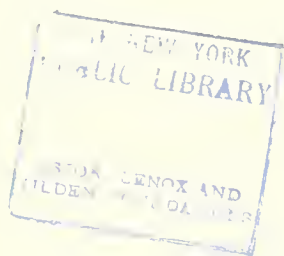
J. H. DALE





H. J. DALE







A. A. BENNETT

now succeeded by the bank of which he is president and to which he devotes his entire attention.

J. H. Dale, vice president of the First National Bank of Renville, was born in Vernon county, Wisconsin, February 8, 1862, son of Christopher and Guerie (Dalen) Dale. He was reared on a farm, and secured his education by attending school during the winter terms. At the age of eighteen he commenced clerking for the firm of Dale & Ripse of Willmar, this state, with whom he remained for three years. Then he engaged in business for himself at Grafton, North Dakota, for a year. Returning to Willmar he purchased the drug and grocery department of the store in which he had previously been employed. It was in 1885 that he came to Renville and established the firm of J. H. Dale & Co. This firm for a while conducted a general store in the O'Connor block, but in 1896 moved to the quarters now occupied by the firm of Bottege & Hassinger, the firm of J. H. Dale & Co. having erected the block. At the same time the Security Bank moved into the same block. For a number of years J. H. and H. J. Dale were the principal members of the firm of Dale & Co. Later P. J. Bottege entered the firm. Still later M. L. Hassinger acquired an interest. Several years ago the Dale interests were sold to Bottege & Hassinger. J. H. Dale was connected with the old Security Bank and with its successor, the present First National Bank, in various capacities before assuming his present position. He has been chairman of the Republican county committee, has served on the council and on the school board and has done other public service.

A. A. Bennett, cashier of the First National Bank of Renville, was born January 31, 1870, in Glencoe, this state, son of C. A. and Margaret (Lee) Bennett. The father, for many years a prominent man of this vicinity and a leading newspaper editor at Granite Falls, this state, is still a resident of that village. A. A. Bennett was educated in Granite Falls and for many years engaged in newspaper work with his father at that place. For two years he was assistant secretary of the Republican National League, and for three years he was a clerk in the postoffice of the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C. In 1900 he came to Renville as a bookkeeper in the old Security Bank. He assumed the duties of his present position in 1902.

The Bank of Miles was started as a private bank with William O'Connor as president; Timothy O'Connor as vice president; and Halvor J. Lee as cashier. In 1900 a controlling interest was sold to Hans Grommerud. January 9, 1902, the institution was incorporated as the Danube State Bank, those interested being: Timothy O'Connor, William O'Connor, Halvor J. Lee, F. A. Schroeder, F. G. Nellerroe, W. H. Cheney and Fred W. Orth.

The State Bank of Buffalo Lake was incorporated January 18, 1901. It was originally known as the Bank of Buffalo Lake,

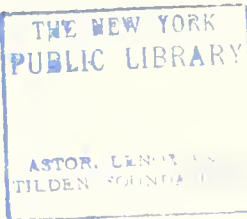
which opened its doors for business September 1, 1893, and was a private bank with Ed. O'Connor as president, T. O'Connor as vice-president and F. G. Neller-moe as cashier. In January, 1895, F. G. Neller-moe purchased the interest of O'Connor brothers and was the sole owner of the Bank of Buffalo Lake until January 18, 1901. Then it was converted into a state bank under the name of State Bank of Buffalo Lake, the charter bearing the date of January 18, 1901, with a capital of \$15,000. The incorporators of the bank were as follows: D. W. Topliff, George Haag, Richard Fischer, William Quandt, J. C. Nagel, John Quast, Herman Manthei, Joseph Flor, F. G. Neller-moe, J. A. Soderquist, Fred Woelperm, Peter Olson, August Ahlbreeht, Nels Olson and P. A. Burgstahler. The first officers were: D. W. Topliff, president; J. C. Nagel, vice-president, and F. G. Neller-moe, cashier. The directors were as follows: D. W. Topliff, F. G. Neller-moe, August Ahlbreeht, Peter Olson, J. C. Nagel, John Quast and George Haag. The bank owns its building, erected in 1910, and has one of the most commodious and up-to-date two-story vaults, a safety box department, for the convenience of its patrons, and the American Bankers' Electric Burglar Alarm System of the latest pattern. Mr. Neller-moe was cashier of the bank when it first started in 1893, during the time of the great panic, and has held that position up to the present time. The capital stock has increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000 and built up a surplus of \$5,000, all earned, under his management. The bank is strictly a country bank, and deals in improved farms in the home locality, and is ready and willing to help build up its town and community, as well as to lend its aid in building of silos, sowing alfalfa and to better in a general way the conditions of its territory. For many years it has loaned money to farmers at low rates, for the purpose of tiling and drainage, thereby encouraging tile drainage and the betterment of the lands to the benefit of its farmer patrons.

Following is a statement of the condition of the bank at the close of business on June 23, 1915. Resourees—loans and discounts, \$194,668.34; overdrafts, \$148.34; bonds and securities, \$3,000; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$6,600; other real estate, \$8,400; due from banks, \$39,382.71; cash on hand, \$9,255.57; total cash assets, \$48,638.28; total, \$261,454.96. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus, \$30,000; undivided profits, net, \$1,989.16; notes rediscounted and bills payable, including certificates for money borrowed, none; deposits, \$229,465.80; other liabilities, none; total, \$261,454.96. Amount of reserve on hand, \$48,638.28. Amount of reserve required by law, \$14,708.68.

The board is constituted as follows: J. C. Nagel, president; John Quast, vice-president; F. G. Neller-moe, cashier; F. N. Prelvitz, assistant cashier. Directors: J. C. Nagel, John Quast, F. G.



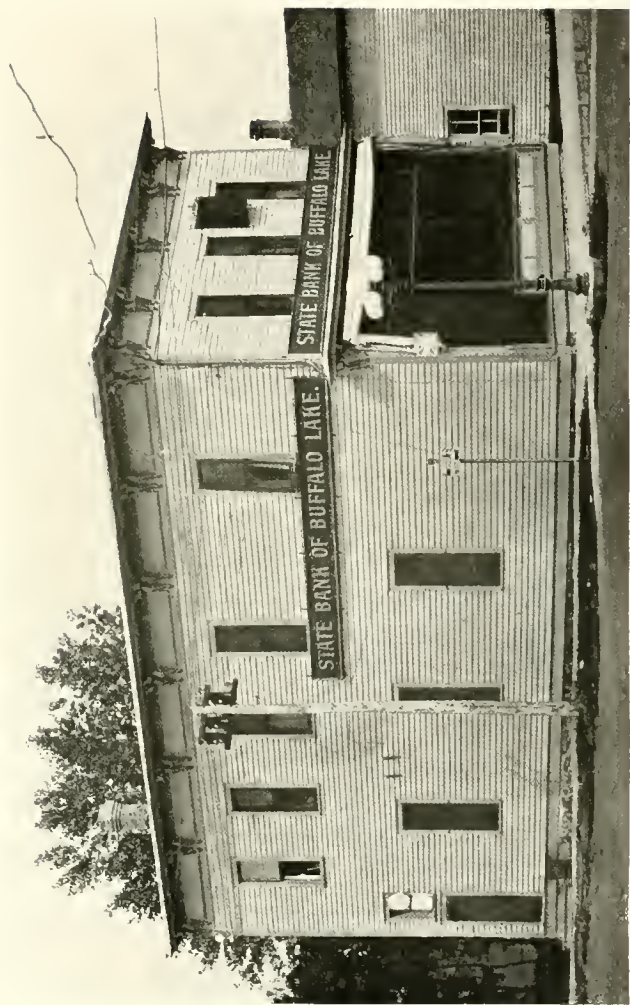
F. G. NELLERMOE AND FAMILY



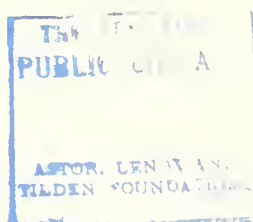
Nellermoe, H. G. Eiselein, A. G. Siewert, all of Buffalo Lake, Minn.

Frantz G. Nellermoe, banker at Buffalo Lake, Minn., was born in the northern part of Norway, known as Korgen, in the Hemmaes precinct of Hegeland, on September 5, 1860. He lived with his parents on a small farm and when six years old was sent out to herd cattle in the mountainous regions which surround that neighborhood, receiving as wages \$5 in cash, together with his board and washing. This occupation kept him busy six months every summer until he reached the age of thirteen. During the winter he attended school and received a good education, taking the average country boy's training of that time as a standard and considering the fact that only nine weeks of school were offered. In the fall of 1873 his father's brother, John K. Christofferson, came home from the United States, giving glorious accounts of America and of his 160-acre farm in the township of Hawk Creek, Renville county, Minnesota. Frantz had four brothers and two sisters, making a large family to rear in the barren country of northern Norway. During the long winter months of 1873-74 the future of these children was discussed and as a result of these family councils Frantz and Theodore were to immigrate to America with their uncle, who planned to return in the spring. Accordingly the two boys left the old homestead in March, 1874. The snow was then about eight feet deep on level ground and winter showed no signs of relaxing. The storms and tribulations and the dense coal dust of Liverpool, England, have not to this day been forgotten by these two brothers. The passage across the Atlantic was exceedingly cold and stormy, and the cold April winds were almost too much for the heavy home spun coats. On May 2 the much-talked-of "land of the free" came into sight and on May 3, 1874, Frantz with other emigrants landed in New York City and was herded into the old Castle Garden, retained there two or three days with the other emigrants and finally sent west on the Erie railroad, reaching St. Paul, Minn., on the ninth of May. There the uncle visited friends and the boys made themselves at home at the depot during their stay. Mr. Nellermoe remembers how they had to walk on planks through mud puddles to reach the depot and how the frogs kept them awake with their incessant croaking. At that time there were no railroads in Renville county, so the only way to reach their farm in Hawk Creek was to travel by rail to Willmar and then across country by wagon road. They arrived at Willmar May 10, and two days later began their long tramp on foot from Willmar to Hawk Creek. It took them some time to become accustomed to their new home and the new customs and language, and they found the mosquitoes the hardest of all to become accustomed to. When fall came they attended school

in an unchinked, unplastered log school house, the school term being three months. It was possible for this reason to attend more than one school, as the teacher taught in two or three schools during the year. At first it was very difficult for the boys to get along because their first teacher, Nellie Ennestvedt, now Mrs. Peder Kittelsland, of South Sacred Heart, would not permit any Norwegian spoken in the school room. However, they were aided by other Norwegian speaking pupils, who translated the rules and assignment of lessons. The next important event in the life of Frantz Nelleremoe came with the disastrous arrival of the grasshoppers, sweeping over the country in great clouds and devastating all grain and hay crops that year and the next and then disappearing as suddenly as they appeared. The hard times following the raid made it necessary for Mr. Nelleremoe to hire out elsewhere. He walked all the way to the Red River Valley and found work with farmers in Richland and Cass counties in North Dakota. He had resolved to save \$100 every year, and that year exceeded his own expectations by coming home with \$150. He was only a boy of sixteen and considered himself very fortunate. Soon after this Mr. Nelleremoe's father died in Norway, and in 1878 his mother, accompanied by his brothers, Jacob and Nels, and his sisters, Ellen and Anna, came to this country and resided on a 120-acre farm purchased by Frantz. Later his mother purchased forty acres of land adjoining her son's farm. Besides farming he also operated a separator for seven seasons of threshing, and in this way was able to meet the obligations incurred by the purchase of his farm. Realizing that he was not as completely prepared as he would wish to compete with other men of better education he sold his farm and invested the proceeds in the securing of an education, spending two years at St. Olaf's college at Northfield and one year at the Archibald Business college at Minneapolis, then located on the third floor of the building on the corner of First avenue south and Third street. He graduated from this institution May 1, 1885, just eleven years from the day he first landed in this country. After an unsuccessful attempt to secure work in the city he returned home and obtained a position in the general store of Stenson & Ramsland, of Sacred Heart, as clerk and general assistant. Later he accepted a position with J. S. Johnson, of Granite Falls, selling farm implements. Next he entered the general merchandise business with his brother Theodore, of Sacred Heart. After four years spent in the mercantile business he formed a partnership with Ed O'Conner and bought grain at Sacred Heart in the Farmers' Warehouse of that place for two years. Leaving that business Mr. Nelleremoe, together with John and Ed O'Conner, established the Farmers' Bank, of Sacred Heart, Mr. Nelleremoe being chosen cashier. He held this position until 1893, when



STATE BANK OF BUFFALO LAKE



he with Tim and Ed O'Conner established the Bank of Buffalo Lake, with F. G. Nellermoe as its cashier and manager. He later purchased the interest of the O'Conner brothers in the bank and became the sole owner, manager and cashier until it was incorporated January 18, 1901, as the State Bank of Buffalo Lake. Mr. Nellermoe was elected cashier by the board of directors and has held that position up to the present time. At the time that the Bank of Buffalo Lake was established the village had a population of about 125 people. Mr. Nellermoe was one of the first organizers of the Farmers' Elevator Co. at Sacred Heart, which was the first organization of that kind in Renville county. He acted as secretary. He also has been instrumental in organizing two other companies of this kind in Buffalo Lake and two creameries. Mr. Nellermoe is very much interested in the general advancement and progress of his community and has done many things for the betterment of Buffalo Lake. He is credited with having spent \$2,000 in building and improving public roads leading to Buffalo Lake. He maintains a standing offer to all land owners near Buffalo Lake to supply them with money at a reduced rate of interest for the purpose of tiling their lands, the building of silos and purchase of good live stock. He has held a number of minor local offices, beginning with the clerkship of school district No. 41 in Hawk Creek and then in the following succession the offices of president, councilman, village recorder and clerk of school board, of Sacred Heart. Later at Buffalo Lake he has held the offices of village recorder, village president and clerk of the village school board. He has now retired from official life with the exception of the office of secretary of the Renville County Old Settlers' Association. Mr. Nellermoe is an influential and respected man and has acquired his present independent position in life by means of hard work and self-denial. His motto is: "The drone will starve owning a gold mine and the hustler will prosper on a barren island." He has seen Renville county when it was practically a wilderness with dugouts as the best buildings the farmers could afford, and he has seen the same farmers erect palatial dwellings and modern barns and acquire the latest conveniences. He has seen railroads built across the northern and southern portions of Renville county and was one of the many who helped remove the sand in the building of the Milwaukee Railroad. He has assisted in the building up of two villages in the county, and while he is now over fifty-five years of age he still appears capable of accomplishing much good for his village and county, and is by no means ready or willing to be counted on the retired list. Owning four improved farms near Buffalo Lake, one of which has 2,000 rods of woven wire fence and nine and one-half miles of tiled ditches, he has something to look after in hours when not occu-

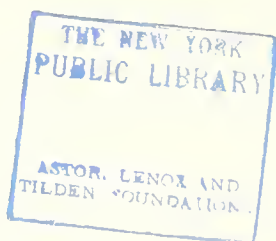
pied at the bank, and he needs energy and push to keep his affairs intact, therefore he has no thought of retirement until he is forced to by nature. Mr. Nellerroe was married June 5, 1894, to Julia C. Hanson, of Woodville, Wis. She was born June 5, 1873, the oldest daughter of Peter and Martha Hanson, natives of Hemmaes, Nordland, Norway, who came to America by sailing vessel in 1864 and located on a farm in the pine forest of St. Croix county, Wisconsin, where they made their home till 1914, when they sold their farm and retired from active farming and now reside in the village of Woodville. Two sons have been born to bless this union: Joy O., now a student in the College of Dentistry, University of Minnesota, and Platt M., a graduate of the 1915 class of the Hector High school.

The Olivia State Bank was incorporated January 1, 1895, being state bank No. 218. The following persons formed this association for incorporation: M. J. Dowling, Ed. O'Connor, T. O'Connor and Jesse T. Brooks, all of Renville; M. J. Glen, T. H. McGinty, W. J. Heany, Fred M. Byrne, James E. Davenport, John Miller, P. H. Kirwan, William Windhorst, J. M. Peekinpough, Marie Erna Pfeiffer and G. E. Peterson, all of Olivia; J. S. Coughlin, James Curtin and Mrs. Mattie Coughlin, all of Minneapolis; T. H. Collyer, of Beaver Falls, and George W. Sommerville, of Sleepy Eye. The amount of capital stock was \$25,000. The first officers were: Ed. O'Connor, president; William Windhorst, vice-president; P. H. Kirwan, cashier; E. L. DePue, assistant cashier. The first certificate of stock issued by the bank was the one issued to M. J. Dowling. The bank opened for business January 1, 1895, in its own building, which was erected by the building committee during the fall of 1894. It still occupies this building.

January 14, 1896, D. W. Cheney became president and Hans Gronnerud cashier. January 9, 1900, Hans Gronnerud became president and E. L. DePue cashier. H. A. Reed succeeded as cashier July 10, 1900. D. W. Cheney succeeded Hans Gronnerud as president May 28, 1901, and he in turn was succeeded by George Welsh, as president, August 26, 1902. The present incumbent is M. J. Dowling, who took office October 21, 1902. Hattie S. Bordewich, on August 1, 1903, succeeded H. A. Reed as cashier. William Windhorst was succeeded as vice-president by J. M. Freeman, January 10, 1905. D. D. Cheney, Jr., was appointed assistant cashier January 9, 1906, and was succeeded by the present assistant cashier, Harold Bordewich, February 1, 1908. Harold Griffith was appointed as an additional cashier August 1, 1915. The present officers are: M. J. Dowling, president; J. M. Freeman, vice-president; Hattie S. Bordewich, cashier; Harold Bordewich, assistant cashier, and Harold Griffith, assistant cashier.



M. J. DOWLING



The policy of the bank is, with a conservative regard for the interest of its stockholders, to do the most good in the best manner for the patrons and the community.

Following is a statement of the condition of the bank at the close of business on September 2, 1915: Resources—loans, \$218,248.33; overdrafts, \$236.33; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$6,000; other real estate, \$6,100; due from banks, \$8,378.48; cash on hand, \$8,279.95; total cash assets, \$16,658.43; checks and cash items, \$844.09; total, \$248,087.18. Liabilities—capital stock, \$25,000; surplus fund, \$5,000; undivided profits, net, \$2,027.26; notes rediscounted and bills payable, \$5,000; deposits subject to check, \$80,635.25; demand certificates, \$34.35; cashier's checks, \$1,901.81; total immediate liabilities, \$82,571.51; time certificates, \$128,482.82; total deposits, \$211,054.33; suspense account, \$5.59; total, \$248,087.18; amount of reserve on hand, \$17,502.52; amount of reserve required by law, \$17,502.72.

M. J. Dowling, president of the Olivia State Bank, was born in Huntington, Massachusetts, February 17, 1866, son of John Jerome Dowling and Honora Barry Dowling, both of whom are deceased. He came to Minnesota in 1877, and, except for intervals of temporary residence elsewhere, has lived in Minnesota continuously since that time. He has lived in only six counties during these years, Olmsted, Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, and Renville. He was married October 2, 1895, to Jennie L. Bordewich, and they have three daughters, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen. He was assistant clerk and chief clerk of the Minnesota House of Representatives for several sessions and was speaker of the House during the regular session of 1900 and the extra session of 1901, was secretary of the National Republican League for three years, covering a period of the beginning of the McKinley campaign and for a year and a half after McKinley's election. He has been in the banking business in Olivia since October 19, 1902.

The State Bank of Morton opened for business November 30, 1891, under the name of Bank of Morton. The first officers were: Hans Gronnerud, president; R. B. Henton, Sr., vice-president; F. W. Orth, cashier, and Henry Beckman, assistant cashier. In 1898 Mr. Gronnerud sold his interest in the bank and in 1908 the bank was incorporated as a state bank with a capital of \$25,000 and \$5,000 surplus. The surplus has been increased out of the earnings to \$10,000. The incorporators were F. W. Orth, R. B. Henton, Henry Beckman, Fred Anferheide, Mary A. F. Gloden, John Cheney, Louis Zinne and Charles H. Orth. The present officers of the bank are: F. W. Orth, president; R. B. Henton, vice-president; Henry Beckman, cashier, and Clinton G. Orth, assistant cashier.

The object of the bank is to furnish a safe place for the deposit of funds, and its policy is to upbuild the community by

accommodating in every way consistent with sound banking all prospective borrowers.

Following is a report to the superintendent of banks at close of business December 31, 1914: Resources—loans, discounts and bonds, \$125,393.24; overdrafts, \$530.96; furniture and fixtures, \$2,480; other real estate, \$8,875; cash and due from banks, \$25,312.76; total, \$252,591.96. Liabilities—capital and surplus, \$35,000; undivided profits, \$7,171.71; deposits, \$210,420.25; total, \$252,591.96.

Henry Beckman, a progressive citizen of Morton, was born August 12, 1871, in Jordan, Minnesota. His father, Frank Beckman, a farmer, came to Minnesota in 1856. He was a member of Company 1, of the Fifth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and fought in the battles of Corinth and Vicksburg. He died March, 1911, at the age of eighty years. His mother, Mary (Loemie) Beckman, aged seventy, is still living at Jordan. Mr. Beckman attended the country schools and later the Lakeview Academy at Sauk Centre. At the age of 18 he began as an apprentice in the Scott County Bank at Jordan. This was in May, 1889. Here he remained for two years. Next he worked in the general store of R H Kempton at Morton for six months, and later worked for three months in the harvest fields. When the State Bank of Morton was started on November 30, 1891, he was given the position of assistant cashier, and on March 2, 1908, became the cashier, which position he still holds. Mr. Beckman is the secretary of the Morton Telephone Company, recording secretary of the C. O. F., and holds the fourth degree of membership in the Knights of Columbus. He is also a member of the Catholic church. May 27, 1896, Mr. Beckman was married to Nellie Brown, daughter of James and Mary Ann (Goggin) Brown. Her father, a farmer who came from Quebec, Canada, to Renville county in 1864, where he took up a homestead in Norfolk township on section 25, died in 1884 at the age of fifty. Her mother is still living, at the age of seventy-two, in the village of Franklin. Mr. and Mrs. Beckman have six children, Sophie, 18; Edith, 16; Margaret, 13; Helen, 9; Francis, 4; Charlotte, 1.

Fred W. Orth, an influential banker of this county, was born in New Ulm, Minn., May 21, 1866, son of Frederick and Anna (Scharf) Orth. His father came to Brown county in 1864, and is at present making his home at New Ulm, being seventy-four years of age. His mother died in 1914, at the age of sixty-three. Mr. Orth started a general store in Morton with H. M. Noack, in 1887. In 1896 he and Fred Aufderheide started a brickyard called the Morton Brick & Tile Company. After operating this for twelve years he sold his share and in 1892 started the bank of Morton with Hans Grömerud, of Beaver Falls. Mr. Orth being appointed the cashier. He continued as such until March 2,

1908, when the bank was reorganized as the State Bank of Morton, with the subject of this sketch as president. He is still located at Morton. In company with his brother, Charles H., he also owns a stock and grain farm near Olivia, of 800 acres, 300 acres being used for the raising of corn. They feed about 100 cattle, 100 sheep and 200 hogs per year. Mr. Orth has been an efficient and trusted man in public affairs and holds the position of village treasurer. He has also been a member of the school board for the last twenty-five years. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. and has been the secretary for twenty-five years of the I. O. O. F. May 21, 1891, Mr. Orth was united in marriage to Sarah E. Graham, daughter of Alexander Graham, a farmer near Green Bay, Wis. Five children have been born to this union: Clinton G., assistant cashier of the State Bank, at Morton; Ruby A., now a second year student of the University of Minnesota, and Fred R., Frank W., and Helen M., who are at home.

The Security Bank of Fairfax was organized in the spring of 1893. A. E. Clark was the president and A. E. Carver the cashier. It was absorbed by the State Bank of Fairfax February 1, 1895.

The Farmers & Merchants State Bank, of Hector, was incorporated September 3, 1898, with a capital of \$10,000. The following were the incorporators: W. B. Strom, W. Smalley, A. E. Schroeder, W. D. Griffith, A. M. Ericson, E. M. Ericson, George Johnson, Henry L. Simons, C. L. Foster and C. H. Freeman. The first officers and directors were: W. Smalley, president; W. B. Strom, vice-president; C. H. Freeman, cashier; W. D. Griffith, assistant cashier; Henry L. Simons, A. E. Schroeder and E. M. Ericson. The bank opened for business December 19, 1898, in the building which it has occupied ever since. In 1903 A. E. Schroeder was elected president to succeed W. Smalley. In 1905 C. H. Freeman was elected vice-president, which office he held until 1908, when he was succeeded by W. B. Strom. In 1901 S. W. Anderson was appointed to succeed W. D. Griffith, who resigned to take the office of county treasurer. In 1906 S. W. Anderson was appointed cashier to succeed C. H. Freeman. The present board is constituted of the following: S. W. Anderson, cashier, and A. B. Dahlgren, assistant cashier. In 1907 the capital stock was increased to \$20,000, the additional \$10,000 being converted from the surplus account, which had all been earned. The bank has maintained a consistent policy of service to the community.

The following is the latest financial statement: Resources—loans and discounts, \$205,144.14; overdrafts, \$157.62; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$5,675.00; cash and due from banks, \$20,403.33; total, \$231,380.09. Liabilities—capital stock and sur-

plus, \$25,000; undivided profits, \$3,340.16; deposits, \$203,039.93; total, \$231,380.09.

Albert E. Schroeder, president of the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank of Hector, treasurer of the Hector board of education, and secretary and treasurer of the Johnson Hardware Co., of that place, was born at Randolph, Wisconsin, June 27, 1860, and was brought to Fillmore county, this state, by his parents in 1864. He was reared on a farm near Spring Valley, attended the district schools and the Spring Valley schools, and remained at home until 1881, when he came to Renville county and started the first store at Buffalo Lake. A year and a half later he bought a farm of eighty acres in section 23, Hector township, and engaged in farming. He developed a splendid place, erected a good residence and suitable barns and sheds and had added to it until he now owns 280 acres. Three years after purchasing the farm he engaged for a year in the hotel business in Hector. In 1902 he became interested in the hardware business at Hector, and identified himself with what is now the Johnson Hardware Co. The company was organized in 1897, was incorporated in 1901 and has the following officers: President, George Johnson; vice-president, Leo Johnson; secretary and treasurer, A. E. Schroeder. In March, 1915, the building and stock was destroyed by fire. The company has now completed and opened the finest store in Hector. The building occupies a commanding position, is of brick, fireproof throughout, and is modern in every particular. The company carries a complete line of furniture, hardware, farm machinery and equipment, and acts as agent for the Ford automobile. An undertaking establishment is also conducted. Mr. Schroeder was one of the organizers of the bank, of which he is now president, and has been a member of the board of education for sixteen years. He is a shrewd and cautious business man, and an influential citizen, taking an interest in everything that has for its purpose the good and betterment of the community, and contributing liberally to every worthy cause. Mr. Schroeder was married May 27, 1889, to Ella Freeman, and this union has been blessed with five children: Mildred, Myrtle, Neva, Stanley and Donald. Mildred was born April 2, 1890, graduated from the Hector High school in 1908 and from Carleton college at Northfield in 1912, since which time she has been a teacher at New Ulm. Myrtle was born June 20, 1892, graduated from the Hector High school, and was married August 25, 1914, to John Butler, son of E. J. Butler, of Martinsburg township. John Butler is now connected with the Johnson Hardware Co. Neva was born December 14, 1894, graduated from the Hector High school and is now a student in the University of Minnesota. Stanley, born March 10, 1901, and Donald, born February 14, 1903, are both students in the public schools. Frederick Schroeder





S. W. ANDERSON

and his good wife Paulina (Yunker) Schroeder, parents of Albert E. Schroeder, were born in Germany, came to America early in life, were married in Wisconsin, and in 1864 came to this state and located on a farm near Spring Valley in Fillmore county. Frederick Schroeder died in 1909 and his wife in 1901.

Swante W. Anderson, cashier of the Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank, of Hector, was born October 24, 1879, at Red Wing, Minn., son of Swante and Charlotte (Johnson) Anderson. After graduating from the Red Wing High school he spent a year at the commercial college at St. Peter. In 1898 he became book-keeper for the Johnson Hardware Co., of Hector, and in 1900 was made assistant cashier of the bank, of which he is now cashier, having held that position of trust since 1905, when he succeeded C. H. Freeman. He is a Republican and a member of Hector Lodge No. 158, A. F. & A. M. He was president of the village council in 1913 and prior to that time served several terms as a village councilman. He is also president of the local telephone company. June 14, 1912, Mr. Anderson was married to Lora Hoffman, born at Rochester September 28, 1884, daughter of Louis and Christina (Stephens) Hoffman. Swante Anderson, born June 10, 1841, in Sweden, came to America in the early seventies and settled in Red Wing, where he was in the grocery business for several years. He then entered the mail service and died July 12, 1908, at Randolph, Minn. He was married November 30, 1876, to Charlotte Johnson, born May 26, 1861, in Pepin county, Wisconsin. She is now living in Hector. There were two children: Swante W., born October 24, 1879, and Esther, born October 13, 1877, now Mrs. S. D. Morrill, of Hector. Louis Hoffman has devoted his life to farming and now lives in retirement at Rochester, in this state. He and his wife had three children: Edward, of Bird Island; Bertha, the widow of Theodore Adler; Lora, the wife of Swante W. Anderson.

The State Bank of Franklin was originally established by D. W. Cheney, of Sparta, Wis.; Fred W. Orth, of Morton, and Hans Gronnerud, of Beaver Falls, in the year 1898. H. A. Reed, of Hector, was placed in charge, as cashier. In the month of July, 1900, Andrew J. Olin purchased the bank from Messrs. Cheney, Orth and Gronnerud, and continued the bank as a private banking institution until December, 1900, when the bank was reorganized and established as a state bank. The incorporators were Andrew J. Olin, Anthony Poss, C. W. Parson, A. S. Erickson, George Forsyth, Hans West and Fred Jensen, of Franklin, and Peter Manderfeld, Ferdinand Grone and Dr. J. L. Schoeh, of New Ulm.

At the time of the establishment of the bank as a state institution the capital was placed at \$15,000. The deposits at this time were \$28,000. Since then the surplus has steadily been

increased, until the year 1911 it was raised to \$15,000, the same as the capital. The deposits in the meantime had increased from \$28,000 to \$230,000, which latter figure was the amount shown in the last published statement.

The first officers and directors of the State Bank were: Anthony Poss, president; C. W. Parson, vice-president; Andrew J. Olin, cashier; Peter Manderfeld and A. S. Erickson being the two other directors. A few years later when C. W. Parsons moved to Minneapolis, A. S. Erickson was elected vice-president in the place of Mr. Parsons. With this exception there has been no change in the officers or directors. O. A. Olson was elected assistant cashier in the year 1902, resigning his position as station agent for the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway Co., and has continued in that position ever since. In 1913 John L. Peterson, who had been bookkeeper with the bank for five years, was promoted to second assistant cashier, which position he now holds.

The bank owns the one-story brick building it has always occupied, the same being built in the year 1898 when the bank was first established. The building is of solid brick, Morton granite foundation and trimmings, and cost \$5,000. The bank has at all times endeavored to promote the interests of the territory it serves, believing that the local bank should take the lead in every public improvement and enterprise.

Following is a statement of the condition of the bank at the close of business June 30, 1914: Resources—loans and discounts, \$222,606.40; overdrafts, \$476.66; bonds and securities, \$500; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$6,200; other real estate, \$9,100; due from banks, \$11,105.86; cash on hand, \$6,055.48; checks and cash items, \$547.48; total, \$256,691.88. Liabilities—capital stock, \$15,000; surplus fund, \$15,000; undivided profits, net, \$2,957.67; notes rediscounted and bills payable, \$3,000; deposits subject to check, \$66,679.82; cashier's checks, \$2,710.77; time certificates, \$151,243.62; total, \$256,591.88.

Andrew J. Olin, a prominent banker of Franklin, was born in Sweden, October 24, 1866. He came to America in 1882 and located at New Ulm, Minn., where he worked for his board and attended school. In 1886 he graduated from the Curtiss Business College in Minneapolis, and became bookkeeper for the S. D. Peterson Implement Co. at New Ulm, where he remained for three years. For two years he was private secretary for Congressman John Lind in Washington, D. C. During the next nine years he was in the United States Department of Agriculture as acting chief of the Miscellaneous Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry. During this time the employees of the Department of Agriculture increased from 150 in number to over 2,000, and the appropriation of money grew from \$250,000 to over \$2,000,000. During the time that Mr. Olin was in Washington



ANDREW J. OLIN



he attended night school and graduated from the National University Law School there in 1876. In 1900 Mr. Olin obtained a leave of absence and came to Franklin, where he in company with Peter Manderfeld, president of the Ramsey County State Bank, of St. Paul; Anthony Poss, of Franklin; A. S. Erickson, of Franklin, and C. W. Parsons, a real estate man of St. Paul, organized the State Bank of Franklin. Mr. Olin became the cashier and is still holding that position. When his leave of absence expired he resigned from the Department of Agriculture and has since made his home in Franklin. Mr. Olin is the secretary of the Franklin Local & Rural Telephone Co. He is a stockholder in the Citizens' State Bank, of Gaylord, and in the Citizens' State Bank, of Fort Rice, N. D. Mr. Olin has been the village treasurer for fourteen years. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. at Morton. His faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. January 12, 1901, Mr. Olin was married to Flora Peterson, of New Ulna, who was born March 8, 1877. Mr. and Mrs. Olin have three children: Jennie, born November 19, 1904; Ida, born June 23, 1907, and Mildred, born June 25, 1909.

The State Bank of Bird Island was incorporated March 2, 1908, and succeeded the Bank of Bird Island. The incorporators were: F. L. Puffer, Nicholas Bruels, Nickolas Leach, L. L. Times, H. J. Jungelaus, P. W. Winnege, Alfred Jury, Charles Glesener and Charles R. Wolff. The first officers were F. L. Puffer, president; Nickolas Leach, vice-president; Alfred Jury, cashier; H. A. Puffer, assistant cashier. The directors were: F. L. Puffer, Nickolas Leach, P. W. Winnege, H. J. Jungelaus, Charles Glesener, C. R. Wolff, N. Bruels, Alfred Jury and L. L. Times. The bank opened for business March 2, 1908, with a capital of \$15,000. The institution owns its own building, which was erected in 1901. January 4, 1901, Alfred Jury resigned as cashier and H. A. Puffer was elected to succeed him and Edward Anderson was elected as assistant cashier. The present staff are: F. L. Puffer, president; Nickolas Leach, vice-president; H. A. Puffer, cashier, and Edward Anderson, assistant cashier. The directors are: Charles Glesener, Nickolas Leach, Frank Murray, P. W. Winnege, C. R. Wolff, L. L. Times, H. J. Jungelaus, F. L. Puffer and H. A. Puffer. It has been the policy of the bank to grant every accommodation and courtesy consistent with sound banking methods and help build up Bird Island and the surrounding country.

Following is a statement of the condition of the bank at the close of business September 2, 1915: Resources—loans and discounts, \$169,541.08; overdrafts, \$543.02; bonds and securities, \$2,350; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$6,700; other real estate, \$4,500; due from banks and cash on hand, \$10,813.63; total, \$194,447.73. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus, \$21,000;

undivided profits, net, \$8.61; notes rediscounted and bills payable, including certificates for money borrowed, \$23,000; deposits, \$150,439.12; total, \$194,447.73.

The bank of Bird Island, which this bank succeeded, was organized in 1899 by practically the same persons who incorporated the State Bank of Bird Island in 1908.

The Citizens' State Bank of Fairfax was incorporated September 4, 1901, by Peter Manderfeld, Charles W. Heimann, Jacob L. Schoch, Conrad H. Dirks, Ferdinand Crone, Jacob Klossner, Jr., George A. Biebl, Theron J. Dansinberg, Frances X. Bajes, Joseph C. Koelfgen, Anton Altmann, John A. Hage and William Dickmeyer. The board was constituted of the following: Joseph C. Koelfgen, president; Peter Manderfeld, vice-president; and C. W. Heimann, cashier; John A. Hage, Joseph C. Koelfgen, Peter Manderfeld, Jacob Klossner, Jr., and Charles W. Heimann.

The bank opened for business September 16, 1901, in a two-story brick and stone building, built in 1901, building and lot being worth \$5,500. The bank began with a capital stock of \$20,000. January 13, 1903, the board was made up of the following: J. C. Koelfgen, president; Peter Manderfeld, vice-president; C. W. Heimann, cashier; and H. E. Grasmon, assistant cashier; J. C. Koelfgen, George A. Biebl, Peter Manderfeld, Jacob Klossner, Jr., and C. W. Heimann. January 10, 1905, the board consisted of the following: Peter Manderfeld, president; George A. Biebl, vice-president; C. W. Heimann, cashier; H. E. Grasmon, assistant cashier; Peter Manderfeld, Jacob Klossner, Jr., George A. Biebl, C. H. Dirks and C. W. Heimann. January 8, 1907, the board consisted of Peter Manderfeld, George A. Biebl, Jacob Klossner, Jr., Henry Globes and C. W. Heimann as directors and the same officers in charge.

The following report shows the condition of the bank at close of business March 4, 1915: Assets—loans, \$213,762.42; overdrafts, \$255.20; bank and fixtures, \$6,566; cash and due from banks, \$34,808.29; total, \$255,391.91. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus, \$25,000; undivided profits, net, \$1,657.40; deposits, \$228,734.51; total, \$255,391.91.

Charles W. Heimann, a well known banker of Fairfax, was born at New Ulm, Minn., September 12, 1869, son of August and Caroline (Frank) Heimann. The father is a retired farmer, aged eighty-one, living at New Ulm. The mother died in 1913 at the age of seventy years. Charles W. Heimann graduated from the Mullikan's Business College in St. Paul in 1889, and became bookkeeper in a hardware store, doing this work for two different firms during the next ten years. Then he became a member of the firm of Runck & Heimann in Springfield, Minn., dealers in hardware and implements, remaining here for the next

two years. In 1901 with Dr. J. L. Schoch, Jacob Klossner, Jr., and Ferdinand Crone, all of New Ulm, Minn., he organized the Citizens' State Bank of Fairfax, becoming the cashier, which position he still occupies. At present Mr. Heimann is the president of the village council and has held this office for seven years. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. and has held all the chairs. He is also secretary of the Modern Woodmen of America, and with his family is a member of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Heimann was united in marriage to Sophia Bacher, of New Ulm, April 13, 1894. Her father, George Bacher, a farmer, died in 1907 at the age of seventy-nine. Her mother, Sophia Bacher, lives in New Ulm and is eighty years old. Mr. and Mrs. Heimann have two children: Esther, born May 23, 1895, and Alpha, born June 16, 1896.

The Danube State Bank, formerly known as the State Bank of Miles, was incorporated June 9, 1902, by the following: Timothy O'Connor, William O'Connor, Halvor J. Lee, F. A. Schroeder, F. G. Nellerhoe and Fred W. Orth. The first board of directors were: Timothy O'Connor, F. A. Schroeder and Halvor Lee. The officers were: President, Timothy O'Connor; vice-president, F. A. Schroeder, and cashier, Halvor J. Lee. The bank opened for business July 1, 1902, in its own bank building, which was erected in 1902. January, 1903, F. G. Nellerhoe became president; F. A. Schroeder, vice-president, and Henry Listerud, cashier. The next change was in July, 1906, when Fred Sausele became vice-president, and F. A. Schroeder cashier. At this time the name of the bank was changed to Danube State Bank. February 18, 1907, Fred Sausele was elected president; Fred Kramin, vice-president; F. A. Schroeder, cashier, and B. G. Schroeder, assistant cashier. March 11, 1908 Fred Kramin became president; Edmund Grunder, vice-president; F. A. Schroeder, cashier, and B. G. Schroeder, assistant cashier. January 8, 1913, F. A. Schroeder became president; Fred Kramin, vice-president, and B. G. Schroeder, cashier. In 1911 the bank erected a new building. The present staff are: F. A. Schroeder, president; Fred Kramin, vice-president; B. G. Schroeder, cashier, and Fred F. Page, assistant cashier. The directors are F. A. Schroeder, Fred Kramin, J. A. Schroeder, Ed. Grunert and B. G. Schroeder. The policy of the bank is to carry on conservative and efficient banking.

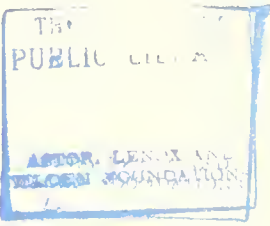
Following is a statement of the condition of the bank at close of business on June 23, 1915: Resources—loans and discounts, \$158,781.47; overdrafts, \$155.83; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$5,550; due from banks, \$6,260.84; cash on hand, \$2,601.46; total cash assets, \$8,862.30; total, \$173,349.60. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus, \$23,000; undivided profits, net, \$483.36; deposits, \$149,866.24; total, \$173,349.60. Amount of

reserve on hand, \$8,862.30; amount of reserve required by law, \$7,036.95.

Ferdinand A. Schroeder, a well known banker of Danube, was born November 27, 1853, in Pomerania, Germany, son of Christian and Louisa (Zwempke) Schroeder. The family came to Green Lake county, Wisconsin, in 1857. There were eight children in the family: William, Herman, August, Ferdinand, Julius, Wilhelmina, Matilda and Tena. A log cabin was built on their land and breaking of the land begun, seven yoke of oxen being used. One of the boys, Herman, was a veteran of the Civil War, having been a member of the Thirty-eighth Wisconsin Regulars. The father died in 1882, at the age of seventy-three years, and the mother died in Nicollet county in 1893, at the age of seventy-five years. They were members of the Evangelical church. Ferdinand Schroeder grew to manhood on the farm in Wisconsin, receiving his schooling in the district school. He engaged in farming for himself in the same neighborhood. In 1885 the family came to Renville county where he bought a tract of land in Flora township. He lived on this half section until 1901, when he moved to Danube. In 1902 he became interested in the banking business and was elected vice-president of the Danube State Bank, formerly known as the Bank of Miles. He also held the position of cashier a few years. In 1913 he was elected president of the bank, a position he still maintains. He is also a stockholder in the Peoples Bank of St. Paul, and in the Farmers' Elevator at Danube. Mr. Schroeder owns a tract of 300 acres bordering Danube, known as the Danube Stock farm. Here he raises Holstein cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs and has built a substantial stone residence. He also manufactures cement blocks and tile, being the sole owner and manager of the plant. He owns and conducts the Schroeder Garage, which is housed in the Schroeder block, a large, two-story cement block building, with a faeced brick front, which he erected. He is agent for the Studebaker car. Mr. Schroeder has held several township offices, having been township supervisor of Flora township for several years and county commissioner for eight years. He served on the board of county commissioners when the county seat was moved from Beaver Falls to Olivia and the court house was built at Olivia. He was the first president of the village of Danube, and also holds that position at present. He has also been village recorder for a number of years. Mr. Schroeder was married in 1875 to Wilhelmina Herzberg, a native of Germany, who died in 1897, in Flora township, at the age of forty-one years, leaving nine children: Herman; Julius; Benjamin, who is cashier in the bank; Fred; Anton; William; Alwin; Ella, now Mrs. August Black; and Mabel. He married a second time to Martha Krueger, in 1897, a native of Green Lake, Wisconsin. Five children were



MR. AND MRS. F. A. SCHROEDER



born: Lillie, Helen, Wesley, Kermit and Verona. He is a member of the Evangelical church.

The Citizens' State Bank of Sacred Heart was incorporated January 3, 1908, at Sacred Heart by the following persons: P. C. Brevig, John Haug, Carl Anderson, J. H. Paulson, M. O. Sveiven, the same persons constituting the first board of directors. The bank began with a capital stock of \$15,000 and was later merged into the Farmers' State Bank at Sacred Heart.

First National Bank of Fairfax. On March 26, 1910, the following persons signed articles of incorporation and applied to the Comptroller of Currency for a charter to organize a national bank at Fairfax: E. F. Sell, J. I. Carson, H. S. Comer, August Paulson, J. M. Hinderman, A. E. Fenske, Herman Schmechel, Albert O. Mundahl, August F. Rieke, Albert Briese, Embrik Hanson, August Sell, H. L. Hinderman, W. A. Fiss, A. M. Crandall and John Durbahn. On June 6, 1910, the Comptroller of Currency of the United States issued a charter, No. 9771, authorizing the First National Bank, of Fairfax, Minn., to commence business with a capital of \$25,000 and a paid-in surplus of \$5,000. The first board of directors consisted of twelve members, namely: H. S. Comer, E. F. Sell, W. A. Fiss, A. M. Crandall, J. I. Carson, J. M. Hinderman, Herman Schmechel, A. E. Fenske, August Paulson, August Sell, Albert G. Briese and John Durban, who elected the following officers: E. F. Sell, president; H. S. Comer, vice-president, and W. A. Fiss, cashier.

A new modern two-story bank building was erected during the summer of 1910. The building is of brick with a granite front, the interior is finished with beamed ceiling and all interior finish is of quarter sawed oak. The fixtures are of Italian marble. The cost of the building is \$12,000 and of the fixtures \$3,000. The bank opened for actual business on October 1, 1910. The bank has continued under the same board of directors and officers until January 1, 1914, when H. S. Comer and August Paulson moved away and resigned. Otto W. Kiecker and August F. Rieke were elected to fill the vacancies. The same year there was also a change in officers, Albert G. Briese being elected vice-president in place of H. S. Comer. In January, 1915, after the death of E. F. Sell, another change was made and Mrs. E. F. Sell was elected to the board of directors in place of E. F. Sell, and she was also elected president of the bank. The present staff of officers are: Mrs. E. F. Sell, president; Albert G. Briese, vice-president; W. A. Fiss, cashier, and Harvey O. Fullerton, assistant cashier.

The First National Bank enjoyed a rapid growth from the beginning, and was able to pay a substantial dividend each year from the very start. Its resources are now over \$200,000. The bank has thirty-six stockholders, all but a few of which live right

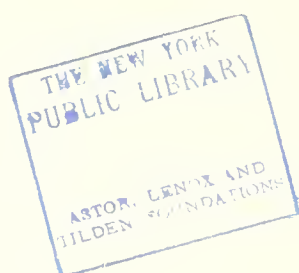
in Fairfax and the adjoining community. It has not been the policy of the bank to pile up any enormous profits for the stockholders, but to conduct a conservative business which has for its goal the absolute safety of the depositors' money. The healthy rapid growth of the bank is an evidence of the confidence the community has in this its latest banking institution.

Following is a report of the condition of this bank at the close of business June 30, 1914: Resources—loans and discounts, \$125,505.99; overdrafts, \$802.30; bonds and securities, \$26,242.19; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$15,172.08; due from banks, \$30,513.22; cash on hand, \$11,832.30; checks and cash items, \$1,489.72; five per cent redemption fund, \$1,250; total, \$212,807.80. Liabilities—capital stock, \$25,000; surplus fund, \$5,000; undivided profits, net, \$1,058.80; deposits subject to check, \$49,996.11; cashier's checks, \$565.86; savings deposits, \$11.28; time certificates, \$106,175.75; circulation, \$25,000; total, \$212,807.80.

Emil F. Sell, banker, pioneer merchant, distinguished citizen and man of affairs, was for many years, since the days of his earliest boyhood, a powerful factor for good and for progress in Renville county. The influence of his strong, vigorous personality had a powerful effect on the community in which he lived and worked, and he is one of those rare souls of whom it may truly be said that the world is the better for his having been in it. His worth is written on the hearts of those whose lives he blessed, and his sterling qualities will not soon be forgotten. Emil F. Sell was born in Boltenhagen, Pommerania, Germany, March 20, 1862, one of the ten children of William and Albertina (Reinke) Sell, who brought their family to America in 1869 and took up a homestead of 160 acres in section 24, Cairo township, this county. The father died in 1877 at the age of fifty-six and the mother was left with a large family. Two years later, at the age of seventeen, Emil F. Sell started out in life for himself as a clerk in the clothing store of William Salkowske at Sleepy Eye. Next he went to Springfield and found employment in the general store of Henry Bendixen. It was in 1883 that he came to Fairfax, and with a partner established the mercantile firm of Sell & Nelson, which after a while became the firm of Sell & Sell. When Gustave Sell died his interest was acquired by a brother-in-law, J. W. Schramm, and the firm became Sell & Schramm. In 1900 the firm was succeeded by the Fairfax Department Store, of which Emil F. Sell, R. G. Reinke and A. F. Rieke were the principal owners. The mercantile business, however, was but one of the many lines of endeavor to which Mr. Sell turned his attention. In 1894 he organized the State Bank of Fairfax. Later he became a stockholder in the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Arlington, in the First State Bank of



MIR. AND MRS. EMIL F. SELL



Cambridge, and in the National Bank of Commerce, St. Paul. In 1910 he organized the First National Bank of Fairfax, and in 1911 he organized the Citizens State Bank of Franklin. At the time of his death he was president of the First National Bank of Fairfax; of the Citizens State Bank of Franklin, and of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Arlington. In August, 1898, he organized the Fairfax Standard Printing Co., and in 1912 he organized the Fairfax Farmers Grain & Stock Co. As a member of the village council and of the village school board he did most efficient work. In Fairfax Lodge No. 261, A. F. & A. M., he was an influential factor. In the Methodist Episcopal church he was likewise active. He joined the church at the age of fourteen, and has been connected with the churches in all the towns where he has resided. He was one of the founders of the church at Fairfax, and served as superintendent of the Sunday school in the early days before the English and German congregations were united. After the union he continued to serve in the same capacity. In 1909 he was chairman of the committee which erected the church, and after it was burned in February, 1914, he was chairman of the committee which erected the present church. He died strong in the faith of the church he had so long and faithfully served. His death was unexpected. He was taken suddenly ill, was taken to the Bethesda hospital and after an operation died there January 9, 1915. His death was sincerely mourned, and press and public united in glowing tributes to his life and character. Mr. Sell was married November 3, 1884, to Emilie Schramm, daughter of Karl G. and Johanna (Fenske) Schramm, early pioneers of Brown county, this state. Four children have been born. Erna is the wife of Dr. P. W. Wipperman, of Minneapolis; Gertrude O. married W. A. Fiss, cashier of the First National Bank of Fairfax; Florence and Jeanette live with their mother. The esteem in which Mr. Sell was held in his own community is admirably expressed in the resolutions passed by the stockholders of the First National Bank of Fairfax, from which the following quotations are taken: "The indomitable spirit that gave birth to the First National Bank of Fairfax, and that has for more than four years been its constant champion and leader, has been called. * * * It is with feelings of the utmost appreciation, respect and admiration that we attempt to measure and comprehend the excellence of the efforts productive of the many enterprises that have been successfully conducted by the dauntless spirit of our late president. Of the many characters who have been active in the affairs of Fairfax and vicinity the personality of the first president of the First National Bank of Fairfax stands out in bold relief. Many and varied have been the projects and institutions he originated and organized. The influence of his resourceful and

enterprising mind has reached and stimulated practically every commendable movement and business in this his home town. He has been a leader among men; a leader who has ever chosen to elevate the moral, intellectual and religious forces of our community above those interests which are solely sordid and mercenary. The many and varied interests which were aided by the unfailing industry of his noble zeal, compassed all the better forces and influences of our community. Zealous in the church, fearlessly and bitterly opposed to corruption in civic and political life, a power and a genius in business and financial affairs, with a helping hand ever ready for those in affliction or distress, his was a friendship to be prized, a leadership to be desired, and a power for right and square dealing which may well serve as a laudable example for his co-laborers to emulate. His memory and business precepts will live until memory fades in the minds and hearts of all his friends and associates, a never failing source of guidance and inspiration."

William A. Fiss, an influential citizen of Fairfax, was born in Charles City, Iowa, December 12, 1879. His father, Henry, a farmer, died in 1908 at the age of seventy-six. His mother, Anna (Achenbach), died in 1902 at the age of sixty-five. William Fiss received his early education in the country schools in Iowa. In 1901 he graduated from the Charles City College Commercial Department. For one year he was assistant professor in the Commercial Department of this college. Later he was at the head of the Commercial Department of St. Paul College, St. Paul, for three years. For two years he was bookkeeper for the Everett Aughenbaugh & Co., millers, at Waseca, Minn. Three years were spent as assistant manager of the Claro Milling Co., Lakeville, Minn. In 1910 he became cashier of the First National Bank at Fairfax, and helped organize that bank, of which he is at present a large stockholder. He is a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church. May 4, 1910, Mr. Fiss was married to Gertrude Sell, daughter of Emil F. and Emilie (Schramm) Sell, of Fairfax. Two children were born to this marriage: Kenneth, born April 2, 1913, died January 22, 1914, and Corwin, born August 21, 1914.

Albert G. Briese, vice-president of the First National Bank, of Fairfax, was born in Princeton, Wis., June 27, 1880, son of Gust and Mary (Fenske) Briese. Gust Briese was born on the ocean on a ship bound from Germany to America. He lived near Princeton, Wis., until 1892, and then came to Sibley county, this state. He now lives at Gibbon, in this state. Albert G. Briese remained with his parents until fifteen years of age. Then for three years he worked in Wellington and Cairo townships as a farm hand. In 1898 he began work for the Diekmeyer Implement Co., of Fairfax, and in 1907 became its manager. January

1, 1913, he was elected vice-president of the First National Bank, and January 20, 1915, upon the death of E. F. Sell, the president, he went into the bank as active manager. Mr. Briese was married June 6, 1906, to Sophia Dickmeyer, who was born August 18, 1887, daughter of Fred C. and Mary (Stark) Dickmeyer, retired farmers now living in Fairfax. Mr. and Mrs. Briese have a son, Walter. Another child died in infancy. The family faith is that of the German Lutheran church.

The Citizens State Bank of Franklin was incorporated February 6, 1911. E. F. Sell, of Fairfax, was the first one who took hold of organizing said bank. The incorporators were E. F. Sell, B. M. Weisberg and Gilbert Peterson, of Fairfax; R. B. Henton, of Morton; George Enger, John B. Tweet, Henry Halverson, F. E. Tower, John Ford, Martin Johnson and Otto Erickson, of Franklin. The first directors were George Enger, B. M. Weisberg, John Ford, E. F. Sell, John B. Tweet, Otto Erickson, Martin Johnson, R. B. Henton, Henry Halverson and F. E. Tower. The officers were: E. F. Sell, president; George Enger, vice-president; Gilbert Peterson, cashier, and Otto Erickson, assistant cashier.

The bank opened up for business May 1, 1911, in a rented building known as Kvam building, with a paid up capital of \$17,000. Soon after organizing they awarded a contract to J. M. Hindermann, of Fairfax, for a substantial and up-to-date bank building, which building was completed in August that year and by September 1 the bank had removed into their new permanent banking building. Gilbert Peterson remained as cashier until the fall of 1912, when he resigned and Otto Erickson was elected to succeed him as cashier and N. M. Mahlum was elected to fill the position of assistant cashier vacated by Mr. Erickson, and they are still occupying their respective positions.

Following is a report of the condition of the bank at the close of business June 30, 1914: Resources—loans and discounts, \$51,644.05; overdrafts, \$261.94; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$6,685.65; due from banks, \$17,917.50; cash on hand, \$4,418.96; total, \$80,928.10. Liabilities—capital stock, \$17,000; surplus fund, \$2,400; undivided profits, net, \$329.05; deposits subject to check, \$30,368.74; cashier's checks, \$665.86; time certificates, \$30,164.45; total, \$80,928.10.

Otto Erickson, well known as a leading banker of Franklin, was born in the village of Franklin, September 12, 1876. His father, Zacharias Erickson, a native of Finland, came to America in 1872, and bought forty acres in section 3, Bandon township, Renville county. At the age of seventy-five he has now retired from farming and is living in Franklin. His wife, Susanna (Sauvolainen) Erickson, came with her husband to America in 1872 and is now seventy-two years of age. Mr. Erickson attended

the Minnesota Normal School and Business College, taking the normal course, during the winters of 1898 and 1899 and worked on the home farm during the summer, graduating in 1899. Then he taught school for three years in Renville county. In 1904 he began as clerk for Poss & Freeman, proprietors of a hardware store at Franklin, where he remained for seven years. At that time he became assistant cashier in the Citizens' State Bank, being promoted November 1, 1912, to cashier, which position he still holds. Mr. Erickson is a member of the Finnish Lutheran church. He has been village recorder for two years and serves on the village school board.

The State Bank of Sacred Heart was incorporated May 15, 1911, by W. A. Day, J. M. Pease, O. T. Ramsland, Robert C. Nolton, Charles H. Nolton, David Eaton, J. H. Paulson and H. B. Helgeson. The first officers were: W. A. Day, president; J. M. Pease, vice-president, and M. G. Geslin, cashier. The directors were: William A. Day, John M. Pease, David R. Eaton, O. T. Ramsland and R. C. Nolton. The bank began with a capital stock of \$10,000. The bank building was erected in 1912. In 1912 M. F. Day became cashier and in 1914 J. N. Stenborg became vice-president, the present board being constituted as follows: W. A. Day, president; John M. Pease, vice-president; M. F. Day, cashier; directors, W. A. Day, Sacred Heart, Minn.; John M. Pease, Mora, Minn.; R. C. Nolton, Granite Falls, Minn., and J. N. Stenborg, Sacred Heart, Minn.

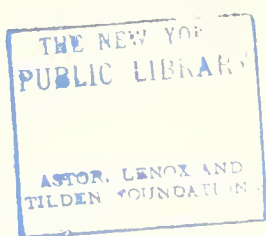
Following is a report of the condition of the bank at the close of business, June 30, 1914: Resources—loans and discounts, \$51,198.43; overdrafts, \$90.93; banking house furniture and fixtures, \$5,900; due from banks, \$9,135.07; cash on hand, \$4,807.33; checks and cash items, \$82; totals, \$71,213.76. Liabilities—capital stock, \$10,000; surplus fund, \$2,000; undivided profits, net, \$68.73; deposits subject to check, \$23,554.87; cashier's checks, \$586.27; time certificates, \$35,003.89; total, \$71,213.76.

The O'Connor Bros. State Bank of Renville, the largest capitalized bank in the county, was incorporated at Renville, September 3, 1912, by the brothers, Timothy O'Connor, Edward O'Connor and William O'Connor, with a capital stock of \$30,000. The bank building is a substantial modern brick structure, equipped and furnished with the latest in bank fixtures and nicely located, as well as unusually attractive in design. The present board is constituted as follows: Timothy O'Connor, president; Edward O'Connor, vice-president; William O'Connor, cashier; Robert K. Stuart and C. D. Beck, assistant cashiers. Directors: Edward O'Connor, Sacred Heart; Timothy O'Connor and William O'Connor, both of Renville.

Following is a statement of the condition of the bank at close of business, September 2, 1915: Resources—loans and discounts,



WILLIAM O'CONNOR



\$274,121.54; overdrafts, \$100.86; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$17,500; cash and due from banks, \$33,223.27; total, \$324,945.67: Liabilities—capital stock, \$30,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$24,407.50; deposits, \$270,538.17; total, \$324,945.67.

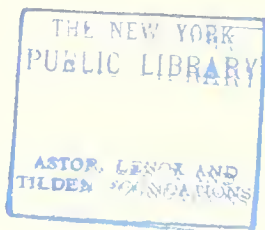
William O'Connor, a well known banker of Renville and a prominent figure in the financial integrity of Renville county, was born on a farm near Forest City, Iowa, November 10, 1873, son of James and Elizabeth O'Connor. He attended the district schools of his native town and came with his mother to Sacred Heart in 1885, here completing his education. After ten years of business experience he started his banking career with the O'Connor Brothers' bank at Renville in the capacity of bookkeeper. In this business he has since continued and is now the efficient cashier of the O'Connor Bros. State Bank. Mr. O'Connor's connections with the banking and land interests of this and other counties have been interesting and varied. In addition to his interests in the bank at Renville he is a director in the Farmers State Bank of Sacred Heart, vice president of the McGrath State Bank of McGrath, Minnesota, and vice president of the O'Connor Land Company of Renville. In public affairs, Mr. O'Connor has not shirked his duty, as his two years' service on the Renville city council and his two years' service as mayor have shown. Fraternally he is likewise well known, being a member of the Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs, the Modern Woodmen and the Royal Neighbors of Renville and of the Knights of Columbus at Montevideo. A lover of the out-of-doors sports, and as a thorough believer of the civic progress of the community, he has likewise become an active worker in the Renville Commercial Club. All in all he is a useful citizen whose time is well occupied with public and private duties, and his activities have won for him a foremost place among the men of the county. Mr. O'Connor was married May 6, 1894, to Malvina Baade, a native of Renville. This union has been blessed with three children: Vernon W., Jennings L. and Timothy Donald. Vernon W. graduated from the Renville high school and is now studying law at the University of Minnesota. Jennings L. is attending the Renville high school. Timothy Donald is likewise attending the Renville high school.

Timothy O'Connor, one of Renville's most successful business men and a pioneer in Renville banking, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, May 21, 1866, son of James and Elizabeth (Erickson) O'Connor. Timothy O'Connor was thirteen years of age when his father died and had meager opportunities for obtaining an education. In April, 1880, he and his brother James started overland by team for Renville county, locating in Sacred Heart. Here Timothy worked on the farm of his cousin, E. S. Gunderson, for a short time. The following fall his brothers, John and Edward,

came to Renville county and still later came the brothers, Michael and William. In 1887 Timothy located in Renville. He had acquired with hard work a common school education and with the assistance of his brothers started up in business for himself in the small but growing village, commencing a general banking business, the firm being known as the O'Connor Brothers, (private) bankers, with Timothy O'Connor as cashier and local head of the firm. That was the only bank that Renville could boast of and was considered quite an acquisition. Associated with Mr. O'Connor were his brothers, James and Edward, and also J. T. Brooks, afterwards the county auditor. In 1890 the business was incorporated under the state banking laws and became known as the Renville State Bank, with Timothy O'Connor as cashier. In 1897 Timothy became the president; James, vice president, and William, cashier. In 1907 the bank was sold to S. M. Serkland and O. A. Stensvad. In 1907 Timothy and his brothers, Edward and William, organized the First National Bank of Bellfield, North Dakota, also organizing the Bellfield Land and Investment Company. They retained this five years. September 3, 1912, they organized the present O'Connor Brothers' Bank of Renville, erecting one of the finest bank buildings in the county, with Timothy O'Connor, president; Edward O'Connor, vice president; William O'Connor, cashier; Robert K. Stuart, assistant cashier, and C. D. Beck, assistant cashier. The O'Connor brothers have organized the following banks: In 1892 the first bank located at Buffalo Lake, then a private bank, was organized, Edward being president and Timothy vice president, selling out their interests there in 1895; the State Bank of Olivia, president, Edward O'Connor, vice president, Timothy O'Connor, cashier, P. H. Kirwan; the Bank of Miles, now known as the town of Danube, Renville county, with Timothy as president, William, vice president, and H. J. Lee, cashier, being reorganized into a state bank with Timothy as president, F. H. Schroeder, vice president, and William as cashier. This was sold out to Hans Gronmernd and is now owned by Schroeder Brothers; the Farmers State Bank of Sacred Heart, with Edward O'Connor as president, John O'Connor, vice president, and H. O. Agre and J. L. Johnson as cashiers, Timothy being on the board of directors. In 1905 this was sold out and in 1912 it was repurchased and consolidated with the Citizens Bank, with Timothy O'Connor, president, William O'Connor, vice president, W. H. Cheeney, second vice president, later changing officers, with Edward O'Connor as president and Timothy vice president. In 1910 they organized the Holland America Bank of South Heart, North Dakota, selling out their interests later. In 1913 they organized the McGrath State Bank at McGrath, Minn., with the following officers: President, Edward O'Connor; vice president, William O'Connor; cashier, H. J. Kirwan; directors, the



TIMOTHY O'CONNOR



above and Timothy O'Connor. In Renville, in addition to the banks they have organized the O'Connor Realty Company and the O'Connor Land Company. Timothy O'Connor and his brother William also own some farming interests, having some 4,000 acres, which they have improved and developed, using the farm near Renville as a demonstration farm of the State Experimental Station. Timothy O'Connor is a large shareholder and was the treasurer for many years of the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company at Renville.

Timothy O'Connor has been a candidate for State senator on the fusion Democratic-Populist ticket and also on the Independent ticket, being defeated both times. He has been a member of the Democratic State Central Committee for twenty-five years. He was appointed by Governor Johnson as State Highway Commissioner. He is now a member of the Sanatorium Tuberculosis Board of Renville, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle counties. For eighteen years he has been a member of the school board and has served on the village council and was the first mayor when Renville became a city. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. at Renville, the Royal Arch at Granite Falls, the Shrine at Minneapolis and the Knights Templars at Redwood. He is a member of the M. W. A. of Renville and was formerly a member of the I. O. O. F. at Renville. In 1887 Mr. O'Connor married Jane Olson, born in Dakota county, Minnesota, daughter of O. N. Olson, who was a pioneer of the State and located at Willmar in 1868 after the war, and later located in Renville. He was a veteran of Company D, Thirty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor have three children, Etta, a graduate of the local high school and St. Cloud Normal School, and now Mrs. E. R. Barber of Minneapolis; Irene, also a high school graduate, now Mrs. Thomas D. Skiles of Minneapolis, and Timothy Gerald, a student at high school. Mr. O'Connor is a splendid type of public-spirited, generous-hearted public citizen. By extended reading he has become a man of broad education and information, he is a man of deep sympathies and understanding, and in spite of the fact that he has won much of success and honor he is affable and approachable, a pleasant companion and a staunch friend. It is such men as he who make their communities a desirable place in which to live.

The New State Bank of Morton was incorporated June 1, 1914, by the following: F. E. Sylvester, E. J. Kothlow, William Wichman, John Blume, Fred Pfeiffer, George Doster, Julius Blume, John Hageman, Gerard J. Simon, William Zumwinkle, J. Scheffler, C. W. Lussenhop, Fred Scheffler, William A. Lussenhop, F. W. Stevens, Wencel Kodet, F. M. Serbus, Sam Buseho, H. F. Rubey, George H. Johnson, H. J. Fink. The capital stock was \$15,000.00. The first board of directors were: F. E. Syl-

vester, George Doster, W. F. Stevens, E. J. Kothlow, William Wichman, C. W. Lussenhop and John Hageman. The present board is constituted of the following: William Wichman, president; E. J. Kothlow, vice-president; F. E. Sylvester, cashier; E. W. Neunsinger, assistant cashier. Directors—E. J. Kothlow, C. W. Lussenhop, F. E. Sylvester, William Wichman, George Doster, John Hageman and H. N. Nelson.

The bank endeavors to promote the interest of all public improvement and enterprises which further the progress and upbuilding of the community.

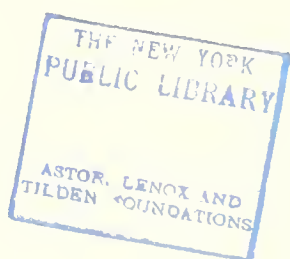
Following is the statement at the close of business January 1, 1916. Resources—Loans, \$73,090.46; fixtures, \$2,420.00; cash assets, \$7,939.82; total, \$83,450.28. Liabilities—Capital, \$15,000.00; surplus, \$3,000.00; undivided profits, \$482.41; deposits, \$64,967.87; total, \$83,450.28.

Fairfield E. Sylvester, cashier of the New State Bank of Morton, Minnesota, was born at Plainview, Minnesota, in 1868, son of Charles C. and Charlotte C. (Burns) Sylvester. Charles C. Sylvester was a native of Maine. He was one of the early pioneers of Wabasha county and later in 1870 came to Watonwan county. In 1850 he drove with others from Chicago to California and spent several years in the gold fields of that state. Mrs. C. C. Sylvester was the daughter of an early merchant and Indian trader at Mt. Vernon (near Winona), Minnesota. He is now living at Washington, District of Columbia. Fairfield E. received his education in the public schools at Madelia, Minnesota, at Mankato and at the University of Minnesota, graduating from the law department. He practiced law from 1895 until 1907 at Madelia, Minnesota. In 1910 he became cashier of the Security State Bank at Seaforth, Redwood county. June, 1914, the New State Bank of Morton was organized with Mr. Sylvester as its largest stockholder. The same year he also had charge of the organization of the Farmers' Co-operative Grain Company at Morton. He held the office of Municipal Judge of Madelia two terms and was a member of the board of education at Seaforth one term. Mr. Sylvester was married to Mercy Hornbeck of Centerville, South Dakota, in 1898. The following children were born to this union: Marian, born in 1900, and Shirley, born in 1910.

William Wichman, leading citizen, successful banker and former sheriff, was born in Cottonwood township, Brown county, this state, April 5, 1859, son of Diedrich and Margaret (Boorman) Wichmann, the pioneers. As a child he underwent the thrilling experiences of the Indian outbreak. He was reared to farm pursuits and at the age of twenty-five bought eighty acres of land in section 14, Beaver township, which he farmed until the fall of 1889. He was then elected the sheriff of Renville



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM WICHMAN



county and took up his office January 1, 1890, at Beaver Falls, where he lived for ten years. Then he moved back to the old farm and stayed there until 1909, when he retired and moved to Morton. From 1903 to 1907 he served as representative of Renville county in the State Legislature and was the chairman of the committee on illuminating oils. He has been a member of the village council and held other offices in Morton. He was also president of the Pioneers' Association of Renville county, for several years, again elected this year, and was instrumental in having monuments erected to mark the graves of several slain in the Indian outbreak. In this work, Mr. Wichman has attained a widespread fame. He has made a life long study of the incidents of the massacre, and at the expense of much time and money has labored, through the erection of monuments, markers and otherwise, to perpetuate the memory of those martyrs to civilization who perished at the hands of the revengeful Sioux. June 1, 1914, he was elected president of the New State Bank of Morton, which position he still holds. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. On October 17, 1884, Mr. Wichman was married to Clara Hummel, daughter of Reinhold and Amelia (Dreslitz) Hummel, farmers, who came to Renville county in 1873. Before her marriage Mrs. Wichman was a teacher in Redwood and Renville counties for several years. Three children have blessed this couple—Edward, born July 22, 1885, who is in the grain and lumber business at Mandan, North Dakota; Arthur H., born November 30, 1889, connected with the Daily News in Minneapolis; and Vera, born January 3, 1900, who is at home.

The Farmers State Bank of Buffalo Lake was incorporated May 12, 1915, by the following: C. A. Kuske, Louis Willie, Emil W. Jakobitz, W. D. Wallner, Frank Wallner, John Wallner, Herman Yunker, H. L. Reep, O. O. Reep, G. H. Werner, Herman Stark, William Wehking, L. A. Reep, Eyo Catour, Henry Boesling, William Jakobitz, Andrew Winkles, Luis Heger, Gust Wilke, Gust Redman, P. A. Winkles, Herman Keup and E. L. Terry, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00. The first officers were: C. A. Kuske, president; Herman Stark, vice president; Louis Willie, cashier. Directors—C. A. Kuske, Herman Yunker, Herman C. Stark, Frank Wallner and G. H. Werner. The bank opened for business June 3, 1915. The policy of the bank is safety, service and courtesy to all. The present capital and surplus is \$12,000.00.

Herman C. Stark, vice president of the Farmers State Bank of Buffalo Lake, was born in Brandenburg, Germany, April 11, 1855, son of William and Wilhelmina (Lornz) Stark, and remained with his parents until sixteen years of age, when he bought eighty acres in Bismark township, Sibley county, this

state, to which he added until he owned two whole sections of land. In 1913 he sold one section and his children are living on the other. In 1905 he took up his home in Buffalo Lake, where he has since resided. He is a Republican in politics, has been director of the school board in Bismark township, Sibley county, and president of the school board of Buffalo Lake village and a member of the Buffalo Lake village council. He has been an active temperance advocate, and has worked hard to make Buffalo Lake and Renville county "dry." The family faith is that of the Evangelical church. Mr. Stark was married April 20, 1873, in Transit township, to Augusta Fromm, daughter of Frederick and Hannah (Krown) Fromm, by whom he has had nine children: Lydia, Ferdinand, August, Herman, Martha, Amanda, Benjamin, Frederick and Elsie. Lydia was born January 25, 1874, married William Schiro, of Preston Lake township, this county, and has five children: William, Arthur, Elsie, Elma, and Elmer. Ferdinand was born July 29, 1876, and is farming in Bismark, Sibley county. He married Martha Schfer, and his children are: Mada, Henry, Minnie and Milton. August was born November 17, 1878, and lives in Bismark, Sibley county. He married Alma Litzau, and his children are: Harvey, Herbert, Bernice and Gladys. Herman was born March 21, 1881, and lives in Bismark, Sibley county. He married Paulina Litzau and his children are: Frederick, Viola, Alice, Harry, Helen and Laverne. Martha was born March 13, 1883, and is the wife of Deidrick Brethorst of Preston Lake township. They have six children: Ferdinand, Esther, Benjamin, Myrtle, Ethel and Norville. Amanda was born July 31, 1885, and is the wife of Richard Brethorst, of Bismark, Sibley county. They have three children: Lydia, Ervin and Harold. Benjamin was born December 19, 1887, and died June 16, 1905, at Buffalo Lake. Frederick was born April 13, 1890, and died February 17, 1891. Elsie was born June 25, 1893, and is the wife of Henry Ruschmyer, of Preston Lake township, Renville county. They have one child, Vernon.

William Stark was born in Germany, October 5, 1817, and was married in 1852, to Wilhelmina Lorenz, who was born April 12, 1827. They came to America in the fall of 1856 and purchased 140 acres of land in Jefferson county, Wis. In 1862 they sold out and moved to Dryden, Sibley county, Minnesota. Two years later they moved to Transit township in the same county, took a homestead of 160 acres, built a two-room cabin of hewed timber, and there remained until 1891, when they sold out and moved to Gaylord, also in the same county, where he died February 20, 1894. The wife died in Lowell, Wis., June 30, 1895. In the family there were five children: Henry, who died June 30, 1853; Hermena, wife of Gustav Kasten, of Lowell, Wis.; Herman, the

subject of this sketch; John W., of Bismark, Sibley county; and Charles F., of Osage City, Mo.

Frederick Fromm was born in Germany, May 19, 1813, and was married December 21, 1843, to Hannah Krown, who was born February 9, 1820. They came to America in 1855, settled in Sibley county, this state, took up a claim of 160 acres in Transit township, and there ended their days, he April 19, 1890, and she December 11, 1903. In the family there were eight children: Charles, who lives in St. Helaire, Pennington county, Minn.; Minnie, who died at the age of two years; Augusta, who died at the age of one and a half years; Wilhelmina, now Mrs. Fred Borchet, of Winthrop, Minn.; Augusta, wife of Herman C. Stark; Fred, who died in November, 1860; and Emelia, who died in January, 1861.

The Security State Bank of Buffalo Lake was incorporated April 3, 1915, at Buffalo Lake, by Fred C. Eiselein, Eugene Eiselein, E. W. Rebstock and John H. Sander, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00. After a short time the project was dropped.

The Farmers State Bank of Olivia was incorporated May 11, 1915, by E. L. Terry, C. A. Kuske, Louis Willie, Henry Eickhoff, Henry Fehr, William Sholts and Julius Henecke. The first board was constituted of the following: C. A. Kuske, president; Henry Fehr, vice president; E. L. Terry, cashier; John Tersteeg, assistant cashier. Directors—Julius Henecke, L. J. Kuske and Louis Willie. The bank opened for business June 21, 1915, with a capital stock of \$15,000.00. The majority of the stock being owned by the farmers, it is the policy of the management to bring the bank into close touch with the financial end of the farm, and to bring the surrounding country into the highest state of agricultural worth. Although having been in business only for a short time, the bank has a nice line of deposits, and the business is growing steadily. The present capital and surplus is \$18,500.

The O'Connor Brothers' Interests. Timothy and James O'Connor, brothers, started overland from Forest City, Iowa, to Sacred Heart, in this county, in the spring of 1880. In the fall of 1880 came two more brothers, John and Edward. The other brothers, Michael and William, came in 1885.

In 1887, Timothy, James, John, Edward, Michael and William O'Connor associated themselves with J. T. Brooks, afterwards county auditor, and organized the institution then known as O'Connor Brothers, (private) Bankers. The officers were: James O'Connor, president, and John O'Connor, vice president. Timothy, who was the cashier, was the active manager of the institution. At that time there were only two banks in the county, one at Beaver Falls and one at Bird Island. December 23, 1889, the O'Connor institution was incorporated as the Renville State Bank, with the following officers: President, James O'Connor; vice

president, J. T. Brooks; cashier, Timothy O'Connor; directors, Edward, John, James and Timothy O'Connor and J. T. Brooks. A building was erected in 1892. In 1897, Timothy O'Connor became president; James O'Connor, vice president; and William O'Connor, cashier. In 1907 the bank was sold to S. M. Serkland and O. A. Stensvad.

The Farmers State Bank of Sacred Heart was organized November 28, 1888, and opened its doors for business the same year. Edward O'Connor was the president and Mary O'Connor the cashier. In 1905 this institution was sold to other stockholders. In 1909 it was repurchased by the O'Connor Brothers' interests. In the meantime the Citizens State Bank of Sacred Heart had been organized. This institution was absorbed by the Farmers State Bank interests in 1912. The officers of the consolidated institution in 1912 were: President, Timothy O'Connor; vice president, William O'Connor; second vice president, W. H. Cheney; cashier, H. C. Onholt; directors, William and Timothy O'Connor, W. H. Cheeney, A. O. Skrukrud and H. O. Agre. The present officers are: President, Edward O'Connor; vice president, Timothy O'Connor; cashier, Osear Olufson; directors, William, Edward and Timothy O'Connor, H. O. Agre and A. O. Skrukrud.

A private bank was organized at Buffalo Lake in 1893 by the O'Connor Brothers under the name of the Bank of Buffalo Lake. The officers were: President, Edward O'Connor; vice president, Timothy O'Connor; cashier, F. G. Neller-moe. In 1895 the O'Connor Brothers sold out their interests in this bank, but Mr. Neller-moe still remains its moving factor. It is now known as the State Bank of Buffalo Lake.

The Olivia State Bank was organized by the O'Connor Brothers in 1895, with Edward O'Connor as president; William Winahorst as vice president; P. H. Kirwan as cashier. Timothy O'Connor as well as Edward was heavily interested. The O'Connor interests have been sold, but M. J. Dowling, one of the original stockholders, is now the active head of the institution.

The Bank of Miles was organized by the O'Connor Brothers in 1902 with Timothy O'Connor as president; William O'Connor as vice president; and Halvor J. Lee as cashier. For a time Hans Gronnerud was connected with the bank. It is now the Danube State Bank.

The O'Connor Brothers' State Bank of Renville is the largest in the county. It was organized September 3, 1912, with Timothy O'Connor as president; Edward O'Connor as vice president; William O'Connor as cashier; Robert K. Stuart as assistant cashier; and C. D. Beek, also as assistant cashier; with Edward, Timothy and William O'Connor as directors. The bank opened its doors September 4, 1912, with a capital and surplus of \$50,000. The present building, started in 1911 and completed and ready

for business September 3, 1912, is the finest banking house in the county. The present officers are the same as at the beginning.

Thus it will be seen that the O'Connor Brothers were active in starting six of the present banking institutions of the county: The Renville State Bank, of Renville; the O'Connor Brothers' State Bank, of Renville; the Farmers State Bank, of Sacred Heart; the State Bank of Buffalo Lake; the Olivia State Bank, of Olivia; and the Danube State Bank.

The North Dakota interests of the O'Connor Brothers have been extensive and varied. Beginning in 1907 and continuing to 1910, the brothers, Timothy, Edward and William, erected elevators along the line of the Northern Pacific at Beach, Wiebow, Belfield, South Heart and Antelope, all in North Dakota, these five elevators being the first to be built on that railroad west of the Missouri river. The opening of these elevators was the beginning of the grain dealing industry in what has now become one of the richest wheat regions of the world. In 1907, Timothy, Edward and William organized the First National Bank of Belfield, with Edward as president; R. C. Davis as vice president; J. O. Milsten as cashier; and Edward and William O'Connor and J. O. Milsten, R. C. Davis and Anton Anderson as directors. These brothers also, under the name of the Belfield Land and Investment Company, with Edward O'Connor as president; William O'Connor as vice president; T. O. Ramsland as secretary and treasurer, and Edward, William and Timothy O'Connor as directors, secured control of 50,000 acres of North Dakota land, and in the five years following the organization, the land company sold some 158,000 acres to Belgians and Hollanders whom they induced to come to America and settle in the Northwest. In 1910 the O'Connor Brothers' interests in part at Belfield were sold to the Holland-Dakota Landbouw Compagnie, a syndicate of wealthy Hollanders and Belgians. The O'Connor Brothers still own part of the townsite of Belfield.

The O'Connor Realty Company was organized in 1909 with the following officers: President, William O'Connor; secretary and treasurer, Timothy O'Connor. The O'Connor Land Company was organized in 1911 with the following officers: Edward O'Connor, president; Timothy O'Connor, secretary, and William O'Connor, treasurer. In addition to this, Timothy and William O'Connor own some 4,000 acres of land. The State Experimental Station is using the farm near Renville as a demonstration farm.

In 1910 the O'Connor Brothers organized the Holland-American Bank of South Heart, North Dakota; with Edward O'Connor as president; William O'Connor, vice president; and E. J. Fahey as cashier. This bank was sold in 1910. In 1912 the brothers purchased control of the Devils Lake State Bank of Devils Lake, North Dakota, with Edward O'Connor as president; William

O'Connor as vice president; and John Thompson as cashier. Edward O'Connor is now the president of this institution.

In 1913 the O'Connor Brothers organized the McGrath State Bank at McGrath, Minnesota, with the following officers: President, Edward O'Connor; vice president, William O'Connor; cashier, H. J. Kirwan; directors, R. K. Stuart, C. D. Beck and Edward, William and Timothy O'Connor.

Thus is briefly told the business career of as remarkable a group of men as ever came into the county. Starting as poor boys, they have by native ability, shrewdness, generosity, and hard work achieved their present high position as leaders not only finance and business but in public influence and matured thought as well.

In developing a part of North Dakota they did a service to their country, and in developing Renville county they have likewise had a prominent part. The improvements on their farms are the talk of the state and are widely praised, and their farming operations are a revelation in the possibilities of Renville county rural life.

Public spirited in every way, every worthy movement finds in them warm supporters, and their influence and their financial help is given freely to every good cause. The extent of their private benefactions will never be known and almost countless are the men and boys who have been quietly given a helping hand at many a critical period of life.

The brothers are cordial, successful, clean-cut, constructive men and useful citizens, and the country is truly the better for their living in it.

A sample of their faith in the future of the county is the splendid building which houses the financial institution of the O'Connor Brothers' Bank at Renville. It is a model of its kind, sunshiny and airy, and absolutely secure, an architectural beauty, and a source of pride to the village, while the geniality of the banking staff makes patron and visitor alike feel immediately welcome and at home.

CHAPTER XXX.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

His Ethics and Ideals—The Pioneer Physician—His Devotion and Courage—Men Who Have Practiced in Renville County—Present Physicians—Camp Release District Medical Society—Prepared with the Assistance of F. L. Puffer, M. D.

“Men most nearly resemble the gods when they afford health to their fellow-men.”

In an age when, in the combat of man against man, heroes are worshiped according to the number they slay in battle, it is inspiring and elevating to be permitted to pay tribute to the men who won glory in fighting disease and through whose devotion and skill thousands of useful lives have been saved and been made happy.

“For every man slain by Caesar, Napoleon and Grant in all their bloody campaigns, Jenner, Pasteur and Lister have saved alive a thousand.” The first anaesthetic has done more for the real happiness of mankind than all the philosophers from Socrates to Mills. Society laurels the soldier and the philosopher, and practically ignores the physician except in the hour when it needs him to minister to its physical ills. Few remember his labors, for what Sir Thomas Browne said three hundred years ago is surely true: “The iniquity of oblivion blindly scattereth her poppy and deals with the memory of men without distinction to merit to perpetuity.”

“Medicine is the most cosmopolitan of the three great ‘learned’ professions. Medicine never built a prison or lit a fagot, never incited men to battle or crucified anyone. Saint and sinner, white, black, rich and poor, are equal and alike when they cross the sacred portals of the temple of *Æsculapius*.” No other secular profession has ever reached such a consciousness of duties which it corporately owes to the rest of the world. What are the principles which a profession, more profuse in its disinterested charities than any other profession in the world, has established for its guidance?

It was about 2,300 years ago that the practitioners of the art of healing began to take an oath, emphasizing the responsibilities which the nobility and holiness of the art imposed upon them. Hippocrates, forever to be revered, gave the oath his name. When a Greek physician took the Hippocratic oath, and a graduate of the modern medical school takes it, the act is one not only of obligation for himself, but of recognition of a great benefactor of mankind. The Hippocratic oath assumes that when a man

has learned the art of restoring the sick to health he has passed into a realm in which the rules of personal selfishness are immediately abridged, if not expunged; and he is received in a system of principles and rules governing all licensed physicians, and enforced and respected by high-minded and cultured gentlemen—a standard of professional honor so sacred and inviolate that no graduate or regular practitioner will ever presume or dare to violate it.

Robert Louis Stevenson, seeing the life of the medical man only from without, was not far wrong when he spoke of the modern scientific medical man as probably the noblest figure of the age. The noble and exalted character of the ancient profession of medicine is surpassed by no sister science in the magnificence of its gifts. Reflecting upon its purity, beneficence and grandeur, it must be accorded to be the noblest of professions. Though the noblest of professions, it is the meanest of trades. The true physician will make his profession no trade, but will be accurate in diagnosis and painstaking in prescribing. He will allow no prejudice nor theory to interfere with the relief of human suffering and the saving of human life; and will lay under contribution every source of information, be it humble or exalted, that can be made useful in the cure of disease. He will be kind to the poor, sympathetic with the sick, ethical toward medical colleagues, and courteous toward all men.

The true physician is he who has a proper conception and estimation of the real character of his profession; whose intellectual and moral fitness gives weight, standing and character in the consideration and estimation of society and the public at large. His privileges and powers for good or for evil are great; in fact, no other profession, calling or vocation in this life occupies such a delicate relation to the human family.

There is a tremendous developing and educating power in medical work. The medical man is almost the only member of the community who does not make money out of his important discoveries. It is a point of honor with him to allow the whole world to profit by his researches when he finds a new remedy for disease. The greatest and best medical and surgical discoveries and inventions have been free gifts to suffering humanity the moment their value was demonstrated. The reward of the physician is in the benefit which the sick and helpless receive, and in the gratitude, which should not be stinted, of the community at large. Medical men are not angels; they are, in fact, very human creatures with hard work to do, and often many mouths to feed; but there is a strain of benevolence in all their work. From the beginning they are taught a doctrine of helpfulness to others, and are made to think that their life-work should not be one in which every service must receive its pecuni-

iary reward. The physician is a host in himself, a natural leader among his fellow-men, a center of influence for the most practical good, an efficient helper in times of direst need, a trusted and honest citizen. What more can any prophet ask than honor in his own country and a daily welcome among his own friends?

It does not take long for the waves of oblivion to close over those who have taken a most prominent and active part in the affairs of the day. The life of the pioneer doctor is no exception to this law, for, as Dr. John Browne tells us, "It is the lot of the successful medical practitioner to be invaluable when alive, and to be forgotten soon after he is dead; and this is not altogether or chiefly from any special ingratitude or injustice on the part of mankind, but from the very nature of the case." However, the pioneer physician still lives in memory of many of us, though he is now more rare as an individual than in the years gone by, and is gradually passing out of existence.

The history, written and unwritten, of the pioneer physician in Renville county, as elsewhere, presents him to view as working out the destiny of the wilderness, hand in hand with the other forces of civilization for the common good. He was an integral part of the primitive social fabric. As such he shared the manners, the customs, and the ambitions of his companions, and he, with them, was controlled by the forces which determine the common destiny. The chief concern of himself and companions was materially engaged with the serious problem of existence. The struggle to survive was, at its best, a competition with nature. Hard winters, poor roads were the chief impediments. Only rough outlines remain of the heroic and adventurous side of the pioneer physician's long, active and honored life. The imagination cannot, unaided by the facts, picture the primitive conditions he had to contend with. Long and dreary rides, by day and night, in summer's heat and winter's cold, through snow, and mud and rain, was his common lot. He trusted himself to the mercy of the elements, crossed unbridged streams, made his way through uncut forests, and traveled the roadless wilderness. He spent one-fifth of his life in his conveyance; and in some cases traveled as many as two hundred thousand miles in the same.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes has graphically described the old doctor's daily routine: "Half a dollar a visit—drive, drive, drive all day; get up in the night and harness your own horse—drive again ten miles in a snowstorm; shake powders out of a vial—drive back again, if you don't happen to be stuck in a drift; no home, no peace, no continuous meals, no unbroken sleep, no Sunday, no holiday, no social intercourse, but eternal jog, jog, jog in a sulky."

He always responded to the call of the poor, and gave freely his services to those who could not pay without hardship. Who

can narrate the past events in the life of such a man? His deeds were "written upon the tablets of loving and grateful hearts, and the hearts are now dust. The long and exhausting rides through storm, or mud, or snow; the exposure to contagions; the patient vigils by the bedside of pain; the kindly deeds of charity; the reassuring messages to the despondent; the shielding of the innocent; the guarding of secrets; the numberless self-abnegations that cannot be tabulated, and are soon forgotten, like the roses of yesterday." Wealth did not flow into the old practitioner's coffers; in fact, he needed no coffers. He was a poor collector, and with all his efforts he obtained but little, and never what was his due. As an offset to the generally acknowledged abilities of the old doctor in every other line of his work, it must also be admitted that he was greatly deficient in business tact. Often content with the sentiment of apparent appreciation of services rendered to his patrons, of lives saved, of sufferings assuaged, and of health restored, he was too easily satisfied with the reflection that he had a very noble profession, but a very poor trade.

Though poor in purse, he was rich in heart, in head, and in public esteem. He made at least a very measurable success of life, if success consists in being of some small use to the community or country in which one lives; if it consists in having an intelligent, sympathetic outlook for human needs; if it is success to love one's work; if it is success to have friends and be a friend, then the old doctor has made a success of life.

He was a lonely worker, and relied largely on his own unaided observation for his knowledge. Isolated by conditions of his life, he did not know the educating influences of society work. He was a busy man, with little leisure for the indulgence of literary or other tastes. He possessed, however, what no books or laboratories can furnish, and that is: a capacity for work, willingness to be helpful, broad sympathies, honesty, and a great deal of common sense. His greatest fame was the fealty of a few friends; his recompense a final peace at life's twilight hour. He was a hard-working man, beloved and revered by all. He was discreet and silent, and held his counsel when he entered the sick-room. In every family he was indispensable, important, and oftentimes a dignified personage. He was the adviser of the family in matters not always purely medical. As time passed, the circle of his friends enlarged, his brain expanded, and his heart steadily grew mellowed. Could all the pleasant, touching, heroic incidents be told in connection with the old doctor, it would be a revelation to the young physician of today; but he can never know the admiration and love in which the old doctor was held. "How like an angel light was his coming in the stormy midnight to the lonely cabin miles away from the nearest neigh-

bor. Earnest, cheery, confident, his presence lightened the burden, took away the responsibility, dispelled the gloom. The old doctor, with his two-wheeled gig and saddlebags, his setons, crude herbs, and venesections, resourceful, brave and true; busy, blunt and honest loyally doing his best—who was physician surgeon, obstetrician, oculist, aurist, guide, philosopher and friend—is sleeping under the sod of the pioneer region he loved so well."

"We shall ne'er see his like again;
Not a better man was found
By the Crier on his round
Through the town."

Several of the pioneer farmers of Renville county had received more or less medical education and practice to a certain extent among their neighbors. Before the massacre the early settlers had the advantage of medical service from the Upper and Lower Agencies from Ft. Ridgely and from New Ulm. After the massacre, many of the settlers continued to avail themselves of the services of the surgeon of Ft. Ridgely and of the physicians at New Ulm.

Two of the old-time physicians of Renville county did not live in this county, but across the river in Redwood Falls, from which place they attended a large practice in Renville county.

R. L. Hitchcock came to Redwood Falls in 1865 and started practice. He was a gifted public speaker and was often called on to address audiences at Beaver Falls on various subjects.

W. D. Plinn also came to Redwood Falls at an early date, and practiced extensively in Renville county. Both of these pioneer physicians lived to a good old age.

J. B. Welcome, of Sleepy Eye, also had a few patients in Renville county in the seventies.

Dr. T. H. Sherwin practiced in Beaver Falls for some years, and was probably the first practitioner to be regularly located here. He was not, however, a regular physician, and had no medical education except what he had picked up as a hospital steward during the Civil war in 1861-65.

Two of the early and prominent farmer-physicians of Renville county were Dr. H. Schoregge, who came to Henryville in 1870; and Dr. C. S. Knapp, who came to Cairo in 1871.

Dr. Willis Clay, Dr. Wesley Smalley and Dr. F. L. Puffer had many thrilling experiences as pioneer physicians in Renville county. One incident told by Dr. Puffer illustrates some of the hardships they had to endure in their work of relieving the distressed.

On the evening of Friday, Oct. 15, 1880, Dr. Puffer was called to give medical attention in a farm house seventeen miles from his home. He hitched up, and after a long ride over the dismal

prairies reached his destination. When he arose in the morning he found that all travel was completely blocked by a great storm, nearly two feet of snow falling between Friday evening and Saturday night. He was thus snowbound at the home of his patient and it was a week before he could get back home. Traffic was blocked on the H. & D. for over five days. In February and March, 1881, the railroad was blockaded for forty days. The doctors found it impossible to get their horses through the snow, and often they walked long distances to visit their patients. Dr. Puffer sometimes trudged through the snow and drifts for eight or ten miles to attend to cases, and Dr. Clay and Dr. Smalley did the same.

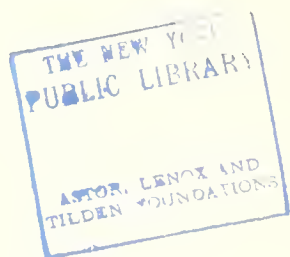
What a picture of devotion to duty is brought before the mind as we see the solitary figure making its way across the bleak prairie. Snow lies everywhere, often there is no track of any kind, sometimes the thermometer is below zero, yet we see the self-sacrificing doctor keeping on his way, his little case in his hand, suffering the greatest of bodily and mental discomforts himself in order that illness might be alleviated, anguish soothed and lives saved.

Present Physicians. The present physicians of Renville county are as follows: Sacred Heart, F. L. Hammerstrand; Renville, Ed. M. Clay, J. H. Preisinger, and L. T. Francis; Danube, W. C. Dieterich; Olivia, A. A. Passer and G. F. Mesker; Bird Island, F. L. Puffer and R. C. Adams; Hector, H. L. D'Arms and H. U. McKibben; Buffalo Lake, C. K. Gaines; Fairfax, G. H. Walker and William P. Lee; Franklin, H. B. Cole; Morton, F. W. Penhall.

Bird Island. Frank L. Puffer, M. D., practitioner and a man of affairs, now a leading citizen of Bird Island, was born in Rensselaer Falls, St. Lawrence county, New York, April 29, 1852, son of La Fayette W. and Rosamond B. (Rice) Puffer. The father, who was a New York farmer, was born at Rensselaer Falls, New York, Nov. 13, 1825, was married Dec. 24, 1846, and died there April 15, 1902. The mother was born in Rensselaer Falls, July 12, 1825, and now lives in Adams, New York. After attaining the usual preparatory education in the public schools of this neighborhood, Frank L. Puffer entered the St. Lawrence University at Canton, N. Y., leaving there in 1872. Then from 1873 to 1875 he attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In 1876 he entered the Medical College of Columbia University, New York city, from which he graduated with the degree of M. D. March 1, 1877. His first practice was at Taylor Falls, Chisago county, this state. In 1878 he came to Renville county and located at Beaver Falls. Since 1881 he has been in practice in Bird Island. He is a skilled practitioner, and is the family physician of hundreds of families for miles around, some of whom



F. L. PUFFER, M.D.



he has attended for over thirty-five years. Dr. Puffer has taken a deep interest in many public affairs outside of his profession. Among such ventures may be mentioned the State Bank of Bird Island, which he assisted to organize as a private bank in 1899 and which was incorporated as a state bank in 1908, he being its only president up to the present time. He helped to organize the High school system, and has served on the board of education twenty years. For five years he was village recorder. Fraternally, he is associated with Bird Island Lodge No. 144, A. F. & A. M., Bird Island Chapter No. 40 Order of Eastern Star, the Bird Island Commercial Club and the Minneapolis Athletic Club. Dr. Puffer was married April 29, 1879, to Anna L. Ellison, who was born Jan. 1, 1853, in Marine, Ill., and died April 5, 1911, in Bird Island, leaving two children, Florence E., born April 9, 1880, and Howard A., born April 7, 1884. Her parents were John Ellison, who was born in Long Island, N. Y., and died in 1890 at the age of seventy-six, and Elizabeth (Danford) Ellison, who was born in Illinois, and died in 1893 at the age of seventy-eight. Feb. 27, 1913, Dr. Puffer married Ida Julson, who was born in Winfield township, Renville county.

Robert S. Miles received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Jan. 24, 1901, and offered it for record Nov. 25, 1901. He practiced in Bird Island two years and then moved to Excelsior, Minn., next removing to Enumelaw, Wash., where he is still practicing.

Carrol Clinton Carpenter received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board June 10, 1897. He located in Bird Island in 1898 or 99 and remained about three years, next going to Dwight, Ill., for a year or two. Then he returned to Bird Island for a short time and since then has been in various places. He is at present at Litchfield, Minn.

T. H. Murray, formerly of Bird Island, who recently died, practiced his profession at Bird Island for a number of years. He left Bird Island about nine years ago and lived in Iowa until his death.

John J. S. McCabe received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Dec. 4, 1883, and offered it for record May 5, 1903.

Ralph C. Adams, one of the rising physicians of Renville county, was born in Utica, Pennsylvania, in 1879. He attended the common schools and the McElwain Institute until 1898. In 1902 he graduated from the Westminster College at New Wilmington, Penn., with the degree of B. S. In 1906 he graduated from the Jefferson Medical College, at Philadelphia, Penn. Then he spent six months as an interne in the Childrens' Hospital, in Philadelphia, and about four months as assistant to Dr. McClelland at Utica, Penn. Since April 15, 1907, he has been in active

practice in Bird Island. He is well liked, public spirited, and a useful citizen.

S. Dulude practiced in Bird Island from 1912 to 1913. In 1913 he removed to Minneapolis where he is still in practice.

Beaver Falls. **T. H. Sherwin** was the first physician of Beaver Falls village and probably the first village physician in the county.

George W. Nichols graduated from the Vermont Academy of Medicine, Vermont, in 1861, received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board, Dec. 31, 1883, and presented his certificate for record April 14, 1890. He remained in Beaver Falls for about three years.

Jennie M. Miller (Mrs. S. R.) received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Nov. 28, 1883, and offered it for record Dec. 21, 1883. Previous to this she had been practicing as an obstetrician and when the law was passed requiring an examination of physicians she secured a license under the exemption clause of the law. She remained in Beaver Falls for a few years, and then went to Washington, D. C., where she became a worker in one of the government departments.

Albert G. Stoddard graduated from the Rush Medical College, Illinois, in 1882, received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Nov. 14, 1883, and presented his certificate for record Dec. 15, 1883. In 1892 he moved to Franklin, next going to Fairfax and then removed to Idaho, where he is still practicing.

J. W. Barnard conducted a drug store in Beaver Falls prior to 1877. He and his wife, Jennie S. Barnard graduated from the medical department of the University of Michigan, in 1878, and that fall took up the practice of medicine in Beaver Falls. In 1880 they located in Bird Island. Two years later they moved to Motley, Minn. After three or four years there they moved to Oregon where they still reside.

Buffalo Lake. Dr. Knepper practiced in Buffalo Lake in the early days.

S. J. Northrup practiced in Buffalo Lake about three years. He was run over by the cars in the railroad yard in the fall of 1903, and died the next morning. He is buried at Hutchinson, Minn.

Ernest Z. Vanous practiced here for about a year after his graduation from the University of Minnesota in 1897. He was reared at Glencoe, and is now a physician in Minneapolis.

W. A. A. Barns practiced in Buffalo Lake a short time about 1897. He was not considered a good physician and is understood to have experienced considerable trouble after leaving here.

Frank M. Archibald was located in Buffalo Lake a few weeks, coming from Gibbon in March, 1895. Then he located in Atwater, from which place he continued to practice to some extent in the northeastern part of Renville county. He was a large, jovial man,

and is well remembered by many of the residents. He moved from Atwater in 1906 and is now at Mahanomen, in the state.

Everett C. Gaines received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board, April 10, 1900, and offered it for record Feb. 17, 1906.

Danube. William C. Dieterich, M. D., was born at St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 25, 1871. He received his education in St. Louis and graduated from the Homoeopathic Medical College of that place, March, 1895. He practiced in St. Louis until 1898 when he moved to Minneapolis, where he remained until 1912, coming to Danube at that time. He was married January 1, 1912, to Nellie Converse of Minneapolis.

Fairfax. The first physician in Fairfax is but dimly remembered and but little is known about him. His name is said to have been Joy and by others to have been Joyce.

C. S. Knapp was born in 1826, in Connecticut, and when twelve years old moved with his parents to the state of New York. He was given an academical education and then followed the drug business four years. Began the study of medicine at the age of eighteen, and in 1851 graduated from the Syracuse Medical College; practiced in that city five years and then continued in the work of his profession in Columbia county, Wisconsin, until 1871, at which time he came to Cairo. He engaged in farming and in the practice of his profession. In 1883 he opened a drug store in Fairfax. Married in 1848, Miss E. M. Ineson; the children are W. E., Frank S., B. A., Ida May and William H.

A. M. Crandall received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board June 9, 1896, and offered it for record Sept. 18, 1908.

H. E. Lucas practiced here for a while.

George H. Walker received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board June 26, 1908, and offered it for record June 17, 1909.

William Philander Lee received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board, July 10, 1884, and offered it for record July 19, 1894.

Franklin. Herman B. Cole, M. D., a well-known physician of Franklin, was born at Buffalo, New York, Sept. 6, 1872. His father, Nelson W. Cole, is a retired farmer and at the age of seventy-seven is living with his son Herman. His mother, Josephine (Blackmar) Cole died in 1897 at the age of fifty-four. Dr. Cole attended school at Hamburg, N. Y., and graduated from the High school there in 1890. Having decided to study medicine he entered the University of Buffalo, and graduated from the Medical Department in 1896. In 1910 and 1912 he attended the Post Graduate Medical School at New York City. He was interne in the Erie County Alms House Hospital at Buffalo for one

and one-half years and another year and a half was spent at Hamburg, New York. Feb. 1, 1898, he located at Franklin, where he still resides. Dr. Cole is greatly interested in affairs pertaining to his work and is a member of several medical societies, belonging to the Camp Release District Medical Society, the Minnesota State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is a specialist in diseases of the eye. He has been recognized as an efficient worker in village affairs, has been mayor for two years and is at present a member of the village council. He is also the health officer for the village of Franklin and for Pahoyra township. He has taken a part in the educational advancement of the village and is president of the school board. Dec. 8, 1896, Dr. Cole was united in marriage to Ella M. McCue of Buffalo, New York. Her father, James McCue, is a well-known real estate man and horseman. Her mother was Margaret (Cleary) McCue. Dr. and Mrs. Cole have been blessed with five children: Josephine Virginia, born Sept. 15, 1900; Donald Francis, born Jan. 9, 1902, and died Jan. 20, 1906; Burgess Luke, born June 8, 1904; John Gordon, born August 28, 1907; and Margaret Audrey, born July 6, 1914.

Hector. Harry Lee D'Arms, M. D., was born in Stillwater, Minn., May 14, 1868, son of John and Mary (Wheeler) D'Arms. He attended the public schools of his locality and graduated from the Stillwater High school. Then he entered the University of Michigan and during 1888-90 was a student in the medical department. In 1891 he entered the medical department of the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1892. He became an interne in the City hospital at Minneapolis, remaining for one year, and then went to the Iron Range where he followed his profession for five years at McKinley and Eveleth. For three years he was president of the council at Eveleth. In 1896 he came to Hector, opened an office, and has since continued in practice here. From 1910 to 1912 he was county coroner. Fraternally he is a thirty-second degree mason, and a member of the M. B. A. and M. W. A. of Hector. Dr. D'Arms was married Sept. 27, 1893, to Maud O. Brearley of Minneapolis.

Harry E. McKibben, M. D., a prominent physician and surgeon of Hector, was born in Douglas county, Minn., Oct. 24, 1880, son of Joseph and Louisa (Butler) McKibbin, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Indiana. The parents were married in Douglas county where they engaged in farming until the spring of 1881 when they moved to Day county, South Dakota. They were successful and representative people and there followed farming until the spring of 1903 when they retired and moved to Webster, South Dakota, where they now reside. They have the following children: Harry E., of Hector, Minn.; Guy, who now operates the farm in Day county, South Dakota; Addie,

now wife of Emil F. Peterson, a miller of Webster, South Dakota; Ray, who is studying engineering at the University of Minnesota; and Lloyd, a student at the Webster (South Dakota) High school. Harry E. McKibben attended district school in Day county and entered the Webster High school where he graduated in 1900. He then attended the College of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Minnesota from which he graduated June 17, 1904. June 29, 1904, he came to Hector, where on July 7, he opened an office and engaged in the general practice of medicine and surgery. He has been very successful, has built up a good practice both in the city and the surrounding country, and specializes in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. In 1910 he took a postgraduate course in general practice at the Chicago Postgraduate School and during the summers of 1911 and 1912 he took postgraduate courses in the Eye, Ear and Throat College at Chicago. Dr. McKibben owns a sightly residence in Hector and is a member of the Commercial Club and of the Automobile Club. He has served on the board of health and is the surgeon of the C. M. & St. P. Railway Co. at Hector. Fraternally he is associated with the Hector Lodge 158, A. F. & A. M. He is a stockholder in the Hector Farmers Elevator and in the Hector Telephone Exchange. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Dr. McKibben was married June 18 1907, to Ella F. Lunder.

Wesley Smalley, native of Vermont, was born in 1849. At the age of eighteen he moved to Massachusetts, and one year after went to Kansas; attended Normal school, then taught for a time, before commencing the study of medicine; graduated from the medical department of the Iowa State University, and began practice at Nemaha, Kansas; from there he came to Hector in 1881. His influence on educational life in Hector was especially strong. After living in Hector a while he went away. Later he returned and practiced many years before removing to Seattle, Wash., where he died some two years ago.

Henryville. Henry Schoregge was born April 18, 1816. He attended school at different places in Germany, his native land, and after graduating, devoted some time to the study of medicine. Upon coming to this country he practiced four months in New York city, and then in Boston until 1870, when he located on his farm in Henryville, where he farmed and practiced medicine. He was also justice of the peace and postmaster. Dr. Schoregge married, November 26, 1846, Johanna Laidner; and had eleven children.

Morton. Fletcher W. Penhall, M. D., was born in Brooklyn, Ontario, Canada, July 24, 1862. He graduated from the Port Perry (Ontario) High school in 1885; the Trinity Medical College, Toronto, Canada, in 1889; and the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York City, in 1891. He has been in practice in Morton since

May, 1891. He is surgeon for the M. & St. L. Ry., and a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Ontario, the American Medical Association, the Minnesota State Medical Association and the Camp Release Medical Society.

Reuben D. Zimbeck graduated from the Rush Medical College, Ill., in 1885, received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Sept. 16, 1886, and presented his certificate for record Sept. 17, 1886. He located in Morton in August, 1886, and in April, 1890, moved to Montevideo, this state, where he is still in active practice. He was preceded at Morton by Dr. Prather and succeeded by Dr. Penhall.

Olivia. George H. Mesker, M. D., a resident physician of Olivia, Minnesota, was born in Kelso township, Sibley county, Minnesota, July 10, 1873, son of Herman and Wilhelmina (Buesing) Mesker, natives respectively of Hanover and Baden, Germany. Herman Mesker was brought to America by his parents as an infant. Wilhelmina Buesing came with her parents at the age of eighteen. Both families located in Ohio where the young people grew to manhood and womanhood and married. In 1858 they came to Minnesota, driving through Iowa to Sibley county by team and located a piece of wild land where they built a log cabin and lived the rest of their days. Herman Mesker died at the age of seventy-eight and his wife at the age of forty-seven. They had nine children, George H. being the youngest. He attended the district school and the Henderson High school. Then he taught school in his home township a year. In 1896 he graduated from the College of Medicine and Surgery, University of Minnesota. After a year spent as a hospital interne, he came to Olivia in 1897, opened an office, and has since continued in practice.

Dr. Mesker has held office as a council member, is on the school board and is a member of the Olivia Lodge No. 220, A. F. & A. M. He was united in marriage to Ella Dressel, born in St. Paul, daughter of early pioneers of the state who came from Germany. Two children, Douglas and Clifford, have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Mesker.

Adolph Augustus Passer, A. B., M. D., physician and surgeon of Olivia, was born in Luverne, Minnesota, Jan. 3, 1880, son of Ludwig and Pauline (Boehlke) Passer, Minnesota pioneers, the father who now resides at Waseca, this state, having been a clergyman in the German Evangelical Church for some fifty years. Dr. Passer graduated from the Waseca High school, and then took the four-year course in the Academic Department of the University of Minnesota, receiving his degree in 1902. Then for five years he was principal of the High school at Virginia, this state, and then engaged as a druggist at St. Cloud for a year. In 1908 he began the study of medicine at the University of Min-

nesota, completing his course in 1912. While attending medical school he served as assistant surgeon of the Soldiers' Home Hospital at Minneapolis for a year and was for a similar period interne in the St. Thomas Hospital. He is a member of the Phi Beta Pi, the medical fraternity. After graduation he spent a year as an interne at the Minneapolis City Hospital, and in April, 1913, came to Olivia, where he is now engaged in general practice. He has taken his part in the life of Olivia, is a stockholder in the Farmers' State Bank, a member of the Rod and Gun club, and of the Commercial club. Fraternally his affiliation is with the A. F. & A. M. Dr. Passer has been county coroner since 1913, and has served for some years as a member of the Olivia village Board of Health. He is also second lieutenant of Company H, Third Regiment, M. N. G. His professional connections are many. He belongs to the Camp Release Medical Society, the Minnesota State Medical Association and the American Medical Association, and is local examiner for the N. Y. Mutual Life Insurance Co.; the Northwest Mutual, of Milwaukee; Fidelity Mutual; Equitable Life Insurance Society; Minnesota Mutual Life; Dakota Life Insurance Co.; the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors. He is a member of the staff of the West Side General Hospital of St. Paul. In politics he is a Republican, and his faith is that of the German Evangelical church. Dr. Passer was married May 15, 1913, in Minneapolis, to Irene Morek, daughter of James and Caroline (Locke) Morek.

James B. Ferguson, for some forty years a Medical Officer in the United States, and for some time a physician at Olivia, first came to Minnesota in 1870, when he reached St. Paul on his way to Ft. Totten, North Dakota. In all he spent some twenty years in the Department of Dakota. Nov. 30, 1891, he resigned from the army, and after considering a number of places decided upon Olivia as the scene of his future activities. He reached Olivia, Dec. 25, 1891, and while looking about for a home, boarded at the old Merchants Hotel, at that time kept by Mr. and Mrs. John Miller, Sr. Dr. Ferguson located in Olivia because he had confidence in the people who were interested in its welfare and growth and because at that time there was a need of a physician, none being then located here. The country around was an excellent farming area, the village had good railroad facilities, and even at that time it seemed the logical place for the county seat. Dr. Ferguson at once won the esteem of the people and established a good practice. He took part in the county seat fight and was an able assistant to such county-seat fighters as Peter W. Heims, Hans Gronnerud, P. H. Kirwan, Thad. P. McIntyre and others. The doctor found, however, that after so many years of army service the life of a village physician was too strenuous, so on June 4, 1898, in response to a telegram from the Surgeon Gen-

eral, United States Army, Washington, D. C., asking him to re-enter the service, he accepted, and was assigned to Ft. Yellowstone, Wyoming. In April, 1911, he retired, and with his wife, who in the meantime had continued to live in Olivia, moved to St. Paul, where he now lives.

J. D. Ellis practiced in Olivia for a year in 1891.

Glenn Hymer practiced in Olivia for a year or two about 1911. He moved to Williston, North Dakota, where he died in 1913.

F. C. Miller was born on a farm near Northfield, this state, worked as a druggist, attended a school of pharmacy at Portland, Oregon, graduated from the medical department of Hamline University with honors, and started practice in Olivia in October, 1899.

Charles Weinsma graduated from the University of Utrecht, Holland, in 1872, received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board, Sept. 18, 1884, and presented his certificate for record Dec. 18, 1890. He practiced at Olivia some two to five years.

Rock Phelps Miller received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Oct. 13, 1896, and offered it for record Nov. 9, 1899. He remained in Sacred Heart a short time but is out of practice now.

Edward T. Congnham graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Minneapolis, Minn., in 1886, received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board June 3, 1886, and presented his certificate for record April 13, 1887. He practiced in Olivia for about six months in 1887.

Renville. The first physician in Renville was Dr. Fleishman, an eccentric character well remembered by the early settlers.

Edward M. Clay, M. D., physician and surgeon of Renville, was born in Oronoco, Olmsted county, Minnesota, March 2, 1866, son of Mark W. and Johanna P. (Stoddard) Clay. He attended the public schools of his native county, and in 1884 removed with his father to Hutchinson, in this state. It was in 1887 when he came to Renville, then without a paper, and became editor of the Renville Weekly News, which was established by C. L. Lorraine the same week of his arrival, and continued editing it until 1889. In the meantime he had engaged in private study, and upon leaving the newspaper desk, found himself well-qualified to enter the Minneapolis College of Physicians and Surgeons at Minneapolis, from which he graduated in 1893 with the degrees of M. D. and C. M. Having thus realized an ambition of many years, he opened an office in Renville, where he still continues to practice. He has built up a large practice, and is well deserving of the esteem and confidence in which he is held by the people of the village and surrounding rural districts. Keeping thoroughly abreast of the latest discoveries in science and medicine, he has perfected

his previous study and experience by post-graduate work in several branches. Being thoroughly ethical in the practice of the ideals of his profession he has allied himself with the Camp Release District Medical Association, the Southern Minnesota Medical Association, the Minnesota State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He is medical examiner for eighteen Old Line, so-called, insurance companies, and has been local surgeon for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad for some twenty years. Locally the health and sanitation of the community has been benefitted by his valued services as county coroner twelve years, county physician four years, and village health officer for several years. Dr. Clay is past worshipful master of Renville Lodge, No. 193, A. F. & A. M., and in 1904 he served as deputy grand master, Minnesota Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen and other orders. Too busy with his work to mingle actively in political life, he nevertheless has consented to serve for two years as alderman of Renville from the second ward, and his sane and conservative judgment was thoroughly appreciated by his constituents. Dr. Clay was married October 14, 1893, to Belle C. Benson, daughter of David and Carrie (Knutson) Benson, of Renville. This union has been blessed with two children. Florence J. was born May 20, 1906. An unnamed infant is deceased.

Mark W. Clay, one of Minnesota's sturdy territorial pioneers, was a native of the Granite State, having been born of New England ancestry in the state of New Hampshire. In the early fifties, when so many of the scions of the early settlers on the Atlantic slope were striking westward to take their part in the subduing of the Northwestern wilderness, Mark M. Clay joined the vanguard, and the year 1853 found him located in Oronoco, Olmsted county. He engaged for many years in the mercantile business in Oronoco in that county. In 1884 he moved to Hutchinson, in this state, where he died at the age of sixty-eight years. At the outbreak of the civil war he organized Company K, Third Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and was elected captain. He was mustered in on November 14, 1861, and retired December 1, 1862. Mark W. Clay was married in 1857 to Johanna P. Stoddard, a native of Massachusetts, who came to Minnesota with her estimable parents in 1853. She died at Oronoco, in Olmsted county, this state, in 1884, at the age of fifty-three. Later in life Mr. Clay married Emma Brundage. By his first marriage he was the father of seven children: Ida A., Maggie W., Edward M., Harvey J., Wellington S., Zelda M., and Charles F. Ida A. is the wife of William H. Hoffman, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, a contractor. They have four children: Mark (deceased), Merle, Claude and Charles. Maggie W. is the wife of John W. West, a harness manufacturer of Browntown, Minnesota, and they have

three children: Earl, Ruth and Donald. Edward M. is a physician at Renville. He married Belle C. Benson, and they have one child, Florence J. Wellington S. lives in Hutchinson, Minnesota. He married Effie Powell, and they have five children: James, Josephine, Mark, Elizabeth and Warren. Harry J. lives at Hutchinson. He married Maud Sofford and has one son, Arthur Clay. Zelda M. is the wife of Frank Chase, of San Francisco, and they have one daughter, Margaret. Charles F. is proprietor of Sacred Heart Hotel at Sacred Heart. He married Byrdina Lambert, and they have four children: Marshall, Marcia, Virginia and Lambert.

Joseph W. Preisinger, M. D., was born Dec. 22, 1874, in Nichollette county, Minn., son of Wolfgang and Juliana (Geri) Preisinger. On completing the work of the country school he entered the New Ulm High school, from which he graduated in 1900. He then entered the School of Medicine of the University of Minn., receiving his diploma in 1904. He began practicing in Renville, where he still remains, having a large practice. He is a democrat in politics, and for two terms was health officer of Renville. He is a member of the Catholic church and of the Catholic Foresters and Knights of Columbus. Dr. Preisinger was married Oct. 12, 1911, to Ella Wigdahl, born Aug. 22, 1890, in Westby, Vernon county, Wisconsin, her parents being Peter and Mary Wigdahl. They have one child, Myrtle, born Dec. 3, 1912.

Wolfgang Preisinger was born in 1828 and died at New Ulm, Minn., in 1898. He came to America with his parents in 1861 and settled near New Ulm, where he engaged in farming. In 1862 he enlisted in the Second Battery, Light Artillery, Minnesota Volunteers, and saw service in Kentucky and Tennessee under General Rosecrans. During the year of his enlistment he received word at Frankfort, Ky., of the Indian outbreak at his home and asked for leave of absence to go home and look after his folks. He was refused and a few days later deserted, but before reaching home was taken prisoner by the Confederates. He escaped and went home, instead of returning to his regiment. On his arrival he found that the country had been laid waste. After spending two weeks in hunting for his folks he found them all safe at Mankato and St. Peter. Returning to the farm they rebuilt their houses and barns and in the fall of 1862 Mr. Preisinger went to Wisconsin and enlisted in the Thirty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry under an assumed name. He was with Grant before Vicksburg and Richmond. He was mustered out at the close of the war. Returning home he married and took up a homestead near New Ulm where he lived until 1897 when he sold his farm and moved to New Ulm. Six children were born to him as the result of his marriage in 1868: Mary, now Mrs. A. J. Fisher, of Brown Co., Minn.; Annie, the wife of

Frank Bartl, of Stirum, North Dakota; Frances, widow of George Dauseheck, of New Ulm; Joseph, of Renville; Sophia, who resides with her mother; Theresa, who died in 1887.

Peter Wigdahl was born in Wisconsin in 1859 and his wife was born in the same state in 1861. They had fifteen children, thirteen of whom are living: Carl, George, Mabel, Nordahl, Ella, Jeanette, Edward, John, Myrtle, Hazel, Esther, Lloyd, and Emerson. Two died in infancy. Mr. Wigdahl is a farmer and for several years has lived on his farm in Crooks township, Renville county.

Edward Carle Adams received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Oct. 13, 1905, and offered it for record Nov. 17, 1908.

Allison W. Lumley received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Oct. 5, 1894, and offered it for record, Oct. 1, 1895. In about 1912 he left for Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

L. T. Francis has practiced in Renville since Nov. 23, 1909. He studied medicine in the Bennett Medical College, of Chicago, in 1881-82, and then became associated with Dr. L. Pratt, of Wheaton Ill., who proved a most excellent preceptor. It was through his influence that the young student adhered to the Homeopathic school of practice. In the spring of 1884, Dr. Francis took his degree from the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College. Then he practiced with his preceptor for another year, subsequently going to College Springs, Iowa, where he remained for a year and a half. He then found himself compelled to come north on account of the malaria. Sept. 2, 1886, he located in Wasioja, Minn., where he practiced for some seventeen years, moving from there to Hammond, Minn., from which town he came to Renville for the purpose of placing his three sons in the Renville High school, from which institution all three have since graduated. In the winter of 1889-90, Dr. Francis took a post-graduate course in the Chicago Polyclinic College. Since that time he has not confined his practice to the Homeopathic school but uses those remedies which he believes for the highest interest of his patients.

John R. Peterson received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board June 10, 1897, and offered it for record August 2, 1897. He then located at Renville. In 1900 he went to Madison, Minn., and left there for Willmar in 1904 or 05. In about 1910 he moved to Minneapolis where he is still practicing.

Rebecca Shoemaker received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Dec. 31, 1883, and offered it for record January 19, 1884.

Willis Clay was born in 1854, in Chicago, Ill. About four year later he went with his widowed mother to New York but one year after removed to Minnesota. Dr. Clay attended the

high school at Plainview and began the study of medicine there in 1877, with Dr. J. P. Waste. Two years after, he entered Rush Medical College of Chicago, and after graduating from there in 1880 was in practice in Renville. Dr. Clay taught school while studying medicine. In 1900 Dr. Clay moved from Renville to Iowa, where he remained about two years and then moved to Waterville, Minn., where he operates a drug store and practices medicine.

Richard Randall practiced in Renville in the early days. He was educated in the college at Keokuk, Iowa, and came to Renville from Le Sueur county, this state. He afterwards returned to Le Sueur county and died there.

Sacred Heart. O. K. Bergan received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Oct. 9, 1891, and offered it for record Nov. 4, 1891.

F. L. Hammerstrand was born on a farm in the vicinity of East Laun, Ill., Oct. 11, 1881. He received his early education in the grammar school in the country and then worked on his father's farm until fourteen years of age. Next he attended the Augustana College, at Rock Island, Ill., taking up a business course and for the next three years was bookkeeper with the Northern Milling Company of Chicago, Ill. In 1903 he again entered the collegiate department of Augustana College with the intention of preparing for the medical course. In 1905 he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Medical Department of the University of Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1909. He then served as interne for two years at the Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, Ill. In the fall of 1911 he located at Sacred Heart, where he has since practiced medicine.

E. O. Lyders was an early physician of Sacred Heart, practicing there in the early eighties.

John B. Setnan received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board, June 9, 1896, and offered it for record Dec. 23, 1897.

Otis O. Benson received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board April 11, 1902, and offered it for record August 4, 1906. Dr. Benson is now in Tower, Minn., engaged in the government service. He practiced at Hector before going to Sacred Heart.

Olaf E. Krogstadt received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board, April 8, 1892, and offered it for record March 15, 1901.

Carl Henry Laws received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board July 5, 1911, and offered it for record August 14, 1911.

F. F. Laws graduated from the Chicago Medical College, Illinois, in 1874, received a certificate from the Medical Examining

Board July 16, 1886, and presented his certificate for record Aug. 14, 1911.

Jerome H. Titus received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board, Jan. 24, 1901, and offered it for record, Nov. 25, 1901.

William H. Welch graduated from the Medical Department, University of Vermont in 1880, received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Dec. 31, 1883, and presented his certificate for record Jan. 2, 1889.

Erick Linger practiced in Sacred Heart for a while.

Fred Foss is another physician who has practiced in Sacred Heart.

Miscellaneous. John Edmund Doran received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board June 16, 1898, and offered it for record July 10, 1902.

Lauritz Fop graduated from the Eclectic Bennett Medical College, Illinois, in 1872, received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board Dec. 28, 1883, and presented his certificate for record Jan. 10, 1884.

William Davidson Rea received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board June 16, 1898, and offered it for record Sept. 19, 1907.

Howard S. Clark received a certificate from the Medical Examining Board June 10, 1897.

The Camp Release District Medical Society comprises the following counties: Renville, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, and Sibley. Regular meetings are held every third Thursday in January, April, July and October. The president is Dr. E. M. Clay, of Renville, Minn.; the secretary is Dr. H. Kern of Granite Falls. The members are: R. C. Adams, Bird Island; F. H. Aldrich, Belview; R. S. Bacon, Montevideo; W. M. Beck, Clarkfield; L. N. Bergh, Montevideo; F. W. Burns, Montevideo; M. A. Burns, Milan; M. E. Bushey, Arlington; H. B. Cole, Franklin; F. J. Cressy, Granite Falls; J. A. Duolos, Henderson; H. Duncan, Marietta; James B. Ferguson, St. Paul; Thos. E. Flinn, Redwood Falls; Ward Z. Flower, Gibbon; H. W. Gammell, Madison; E. O. Giere, Watertown, S. D.; F. L. Hammerstrand, Sacred Heart; M. M. Hauge, Clarkfield; J. W. Helland, Maynard; L. J. Hohnberg, Canby; A. E. Johnson, Watertown, S. D.; Carl M. Johnson, Montevideo; H. M. Johnson, Dawson; D. N. Jones, Minneapolis; C. W. Kanne, Arlington; J. S. Kilbride, Watertown, S. D.; F. Koren, Watertown, S. D.; L. Lima, Montevideo; M. H. Marken, Boyd; G. H. Mesker, Olivia; N. A. Nelson, Dawson, A. A. Passer, Olivia; G. R. Pease, Redwood Falls; F. W. Penhall, Morton; T. Peterson, Gaylord; F. L. Puffer, Bird Island; J. P. Schneider, Minneapolis; A. A. Stemsrud, Dawson; G. E. Strout, Winthrop; G. H. Walker, Fairfax; R. D. Zimbeck, Montevideo.

The Tubercular Sanatorium. September 10, 1913, a request was made by the Minnesota State Sanatorium Board to have the county of Renville in connection with adjoining counties build a sanatorium for tubercular patients. After considering the proposition some time it was decided to employ a traveling nurse in the county for six months. The board directed the county auditor to transfer \$8,905.35 from the county revenue fund to the joint sanatorium fund and to forward the amount of \$8,905.35 to the state treasurer to the credit of the state of said sanatorium fund. Oct. 14, 1913, Dr. Robertson Bosworth of the Minnesota Advisory Sanatorium Commission appeared before the county boards of Renville and Redwood and presented the matter of erecting a tuberculosis sanatorium jointly by the two counties. Besides the board members the following were also present: Dr. E. M. Clay, Dr. F. W. Penhall, Dr. H. B. Cole, Dr. H. L. D'Arms and other individuals. The Renville county board decided to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for a tuberculosis sanatorium provided that Chippewa and Yellow Medicine counties would also join with them with a similar appropriation for a joint sanatorium of at least three counties.

The results may be seen in the following article from the Granite Falls "Tribune." "A year from now there will be located a mile east of this city a tuberculosis sanatorium that will rank second to not one in the state; a place where the counties of Lac qui Parle, Chippewa and Yellow Medicine may have their people who are afflicted with this dread disease treated in a manner that will effect, if possible, a cure.

"On Tuesday, Aug. 24, 1915, the bids were let for the construction and finish of the buildings that will comprise this sanatorium. In letting the bids the Board of Control acted largely upon the advice of the committee composed of D. A. McLarty and Ole Flaten, of this city, and Dr. Smith, of Montevideo, who have had the preparatory work in charge. The lowest bidder for the general construction work was the firm of C. Ash & Son, of St. Paul, the bid being \$37,500. The highest bid was \$52,000. The plumbing contract was awarded to the Worthingham Company, of Minneapolis, for the sum of \$3,781. The heating contract was awarded to the Healy Company, of St. Paul, the consideration being \$8,399. The electric wiring and fixtures will in all probability be let to the Twin City Electrical Company, for \$1,380, that bid being the lowest. The General Concrete Construction Company will build the mammoth chimney for the power house, for which it will receive \$895.

"There will be three buildings upon the grounds, for besides the main building and power house, the former Jannsch house will be rebuilt for the use of the nurses.

"The main building will be two stories in height with a full

basement, built of pressed brick. The building will have a capacity of 44 beds, besides the necessary room for the medical staff.

"It is thought that this sanatorium will be able to take care of the tuberculars of the four counties. Admission to the sanitarium will be gained through the Commissioners of the applicant's county. As we understand it, if the patient is able to pay, a moderate charge will be asked; if not able to pay, the state and county will bear the expense, the state's limit being \$6 a week for each patient."

The care and governorship of the building will rest with the general committee of nine appointed from the four counties. Situated as this sanitarium is on the bank of the Minnesota river the place can be made very beautiful and attractive, and in being such can aid those who seek health through it.

The River Side Sanatorium will be completed early in 1916 at a cost of some \$65,000. It is located in Chippewa county across the river from Granite Falls. The president of the board is D. A. McLarty of Granite Falls, and the secretary is O. P. Flaten of the same place. The board is constituted as follows: Chippewa county, O. P. Flaten, Granite Falls; Dr. L. G. Smith, Montevideo; Fred Bakke, Granite Falls; Yellow Medicine, D. A. McLarty, Granite Falls; Dr. W. M. Stratton, Granite Falls; Lac qui Parle county, Dr. M. H. Marken, Boyd; J. R. Swan, Madison; Renville county, Timothy O'Connor, Renville; Darwin S. Hall, Olivia. Dr. Stratton is dead and his place has been filled by K. E. Neste, of Granite Falls. Mrs. Sara W. Dunton has been appointed superintendent.

CHAPTER XXXI.

RURAL SCHOOLS.

Indian Instruction—The Minnesota System—Pioneer Education in Renville County—First Districts—Growth of System in County—The Present Schools—Some Model School Districts—Prepared with the Assistance of Amalia M. Bengtson.

The instruction of the young is one of the elementary factors of human existence. The child of the lowest savage is shown how to get its food. The child of the highest type of civilization is taught to develop its mind, its soul and its body to the highest ideal possible. Every nation has its system of public schools; every nation has its institutions of higher learning. The people of Minnesota, from the earliest days, have devoted much care and attention to the question of education and, as the years have passed, have evolved, by much sacrifice and through toil and

devotion, a most admirable system. In working out an amplification of this system, Renville county has taken an important part.

Indian Instruction. The Indians who ranged Renville county before the coming of the whites had no schools, but thorough and extensive training was given the young Indians in everything that they were likely to find useful in daily life. Instruction in the religion of the tribe was also given, and a few favored ones were initiated into psychic mysteries such as are little understood even by advanced philosophers of the present day.

The Indians held the wisdom of the aged in high esteem and paid respectful attention whenever an elder could be induced to speak of the traditions and knowledge of the past. Much effort was given to educating the youth in the hunter's craft, and both boys and girls had much to learn to fit them for their station in life.

No one could be long among the Indians of Minnesota in the early days without hearing the elders giving to the children such instructions as would qualify them to take care of themselves. Whatever they did or made, it was the aim of the Indian to do everything well and in a workman-like manner, if nothing more than the making of a moccasin or a paddle for a canoe. They did not like to be thought bunglers, or to see their children, either boys or girls, do anything awkwardly.

There were many things to be learned about the habits of wild animals and birds, the best manner of approaching them, handling weapons of the chase so as to avoid accidents, setting traps, skinning animals and birds, cutting up meat, running, leaping, swimming, climbing, and the like. The making of bows and arrows, and their skillful use, was no easy task to learn. The following of a trail, a noiseless walk, and skillful methods of warfare were all in the curriculum. The building of a smokeless fire, the creating of a smudge or the signal fire, correct personal adornment in accordance with custom, the curing of skins, and the art of oratory must be mastered by the youth. As a child he must be docile, good-natured, obedient, brave, and respectful; indifferent to his own pain. As he grew older he must be courageous, sagacious and shrewd, a master hunter and a relentless fighter. He must be able to care for himself in the trackless woods away from his kind, or when matching his wits against a cunning enemy or a wily animal. He must face all dangers, even death, without flinching.

The control of the voice must be mastered. There were traditional songs to be learned and hereditary dances in which to acquire skill. They took much pains to learn to imitate the voices of birds and beasts, and this was a necessary part of the education of both the hunter and the warrior. When near an enemy they could communicate with each other by mimicking the voices of

the birds, without giving alarm, and they sometimes imposed upon the beasts which they were hunting by counterfeiting the voice of the mother or her young. In fact, they had discovered a great many ways of accomplishing their purposes of which none but a race of practical hunters would ever have thought.

The girls had much to learn. They had to cook, string beads and embroider; they had to build tepees and look after the wants of the braves. They must at times even defend themselves from the enemy. They must gather wild fruits and vegetables, and know the wild herbs. They must know something of the rudiments of medicine.

The Indians took special pains to teach their children how to guard against being frozen, and the young people profited well by these instructions, as it was a rare thing for an Indian child to be seriously injured by the frost. Both sexes must also learn the rudiments of counting, and many were taught to draw crude pictures. The knowledge of the difference between the edible and the poisonous nuts, fruits, berries, stalks, grains and roots must be carefully acquired.

Thus while the Indian children were not, until the days of the missionaries and the reservations, confined to the school room, there were plenty of hard lessons to occupy their youthful years.

The Minnesota Educational System. In the story of American civilization the establishment of the school and the church has been coincident with the building of the home. However, at the formation of the Union, and later, when the federal government was established, there was no definite line of action as to public education, although at the same time that the Constitution was adopted the last session of the continental congress was being held in the city of New York, and the ordinance of 1787 was passed, regulating the affairs pertaining to the Northwest territory, including that portion of Minnesota lying east of the Mississippi river. In this ordinance much attention was given to the question of providing a means of public education by giving one section in each congressional township for educational purposes. Later, when the purchase of Louisiana had been effected, and after the due course of years, Minnesota sought admission to the Union, still further provision was made for education by giving two sections in each congressional township for school purposes. This gave impetus to the natural tendency toward educational matters, and in all the settlements one of the first efforts was to prepare to instruct the children. The church and the school building, when not one and the same, were practically always found side by side. The hardy pioneers of the great Northwest, of which Minnesota was a part, did not even wait for a territorial government, but set to work at once to establish schools. The first school in Minnesota for the education of white children

was organized by Dr. T. S. Williamson on the present site of St. Paul. At that time investigation demonstrated that there were about thirty-six children in the settlement of St. Paul who might attend a school. A log house, ten by twelve feet, covered with bark and chinked by mud, previously used as a blacksmith shop, was secured and converted into a schoolhouse, the school being taught by Harriet E. Bishop. Here, then, while the United States troops were gaining such signal success in the war with Mexico, there was begun the system of education which has become one of the best in this great nation. In this same little schoolhouse, in November, 1849, was held a meeting for the purpose of establishing a system of public education, based upon the congressional act of March, 1849, establishing Minnesota territory. Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, after being appointed territorial governor, proceeded at once to assume the duties of his office. In his first message to the first territorial legislature in the fall of 1849 he emphasized the need of wise measures looking to the establishment of a system of public education. He said: "The subject of education, which has ever been esteemed of first importance in all new American communities, deserves and, I doubt not, will receive your earliest and most devoted care. From the pressure of other and more immediate wants it is not to be expected that your school system should be very ample, yet it is desirable that whatever is done will be of a character that will readily adapt itself to the growth and increase of the country, and not in future years require a violent change of system."

In response to this appeal for legislation in school matters, suitable action was taken. A study of the changes in the school system between that date and 1867 is interesting, but as no schools were established in what is now Renville county until 1867 a discussion of these changes is beyond the scope of this work.

Pioneer Education in Renville County. The first educational instruction among the whites in Renville county was given in the pioneer homes by the mothers, who, though they had come to a new country, did not desire their children to grow up in ignorance.

The early comers never lost sight of the idea upon which the possibility of founding and supporting a popular government rests—the education of the children—and as fast as the children arrived in the county, or became of school age, the best possible provision at the command of the people was made for their schooling.

An account of the various expedients resorted to that would meet the requirements of the circumstances would, while sometimes laughable, reveal the struggling efforts of a determination to bestow knowledge upon the rising generation in spite of all difficulties. Schools were often kept in a log dwelling, where

the school room would be partitioned off only by an imaginary line from the portion occupied by the family. Sometimes an open shed as an annex to a house would serve the purpose in the summer. In other places a brush "lean-to" would separate the pupils from the elements. Deserted shacks were also often used for schoolhouses.

The usual method was for the neighbors to get together and organize a district and select a lot for a building. Of course, each one would want it near, but not too near, and sometimes there was a little difficulty in establishing a location which would prove to be the best accommodation of the greatest number. And then to build a schoolhouse a "bee" was the easiest way, and so plans and estimates were improvised, and each one would provide one, two, three or more logs so many feet long, so many shingles, so many slabs, so much plaster for chinking, so many rafters, a door, a window, or whatever might be needed for the particular kind of schoolhouse to be built, and at the appointed hour the men would assemble with the material, bringing their dinner pails, and by night, if there had not been too much hilarity during the day, the building would be covered and practically completed. The benches would be benches indeed, often without backs, and sitting on one of them was about as comfortable as sitting in the stocks, that now unfashionable mode of punishment.

Some of the first schoolhouses in Renville county were erected and furnished by voluntary subscription and without waiting for the organization and tax levy. Often the teacher took turns living with the parents in the district, usually sleeping with the children. Many men and women since prominent in the affairs of the state were trained in some of these early Renville county schools.

When the school land began to be sold, a school fund was created. The act which authorized the creation of Minnesota as a state provided that every section numbered 16 and 36 should be set aside as school land. In case these sections or any part of them had been sold, lands equivalent thereto and as contiguous as possible were to be granted as a substitute. The proceeds from the sale of the land was to constitute a permanent fund and only the annual interest was to be used.

First Districts. On April 2, 1867, the county commissioners created eight school districts. The first six were as follows:

1. Sections 1, 12 and fractional part of section 13 in township 112, range 34; and sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18 and fractional parts of sections 19 and 20 in township 112, range 33, Camp and Birch Cooley.

2. Sections 33, 34 and 35 in township 113, range 34; and sections 2, 3, 4 and fractional parts of 5, 9, 10 and 11 in township 112, range 34, Birch Cooley.

3. Sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 32 and fractional part of section 31 in township 113, range 34, Birch Cooley.

4. Sections 1, 2, 3, east half of 4, east half of 9, section 10, 11, 12, north half of 13, northeast quarter of 14, north half of northwest quarter of 14, in township 113, range 35, and the west half of sections 6 and 7 and the northwest quarter section 18, in township 113, range 34; and the southeast quarter section 33 and the south half of section 34, 35 and 36 in township 114, range 35, Beaver Falls and Henryville.

5. Sections 15, 16, 21, 22 and fractional parts of section 27 and 28 and the southwest quarter and south half of the northwest quarter of section 14 in township 113, range 35, Beaver Falls.

6. Half of section 13 and the southeast quarter of section 14 and sections 23, 24, 25, 26 and fractional parts of sections 35 and 36 in township 113, range 35, Beaver Falls.

Growth of System in Renville County. When the Chancellor of the University of Minnesota as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, ex-officio, made the first annual state educational report, Jan. 14, 1861, Renville county was not one of the thirteen counties which had up to that time rendered to him the report required by law.

The second annual report of the state superintendent, Dec. 6, 1861, contains the following note from Renville county: "Yellow Medicine District. S. A. Riggs, superintendent, reports one teacher licensed; one school; one frame house shaded by trees, and furnished with blackboard. School properly classified, and opened with prayer and reading of the Scriptures. The superintendent further remarks: "There is also one mission school and some government schools. The schools have before been all government and mission schools; but having to pay taxes, we thought proper to organize under the law." The same report further showed that twenty persons attended public schools in 1859-60. This was outside the present county, Renville county then embracing a strip twenty miles wide, ten miles on each side of the Minnesota, extending westward from the Little Rock river.

Mrs. J. S. Greeley, at that time the only registered teacher in Renville county, taught in Beaver Falls in the fall of 1868, her salary being raised by voluntary subscription. The first county superintendent, M. S. Spicer, of Beaver Falls, drew the munificent salary of \$12, for the first year, and, as he expressed it himself, he wouldn't have taken anything for his services but for the fact that he needed the money. No report has been left of his first year's work, but it is presumable that he visited the one school over which he had supervision frequently, and it is safe to say that he is the only county superintendent who was never accused of showing partiality among the teachers.

No class of Renville county's citizens did more for the uplift of society or for the moral welfare of the public than did the teachers of early days. Under their capable care and keeping were placed an army of untutored young savages whose inclination to mischief knew no bounds. It was no small part of the teacher's work to instill into the hearts of these youngsters the sense of respectability and a desire for knowledge. But these good, faithful, devoted women proved equal to the great task, and many of the foremost men in the country today gratefully attribute their success in life, in part at least, to the good influence and counsel of these noble women.

Mr. Spicer as county superintendent made the following report to the state superintendent for the year ending Sept. 2, 1869:

"There has not been the progress in school matters that had been hoped for, by those having the cause of education at heart. We have some first-class teachers in the county, who are willing to teach for such compensation as they could reasonably demand at other occupations, but parents and school officers are so much taken up with the extra toils of frontier life that they pass lightly over the duties they owe the cause of education, neglecting the building of schoolhouses and the employment of suitable persons as teachers. A large portion of the district officers are quite unfit to hold such offices, some on account of habitual neglect of the duties of the office, others on account of ignorance. I do not think over two-thirds of the children in the county have been reported. Several of the districts have material on hand for the purpose of building, but have not reported the same. One district employed a qualified teacher for three months, but as her wages was paid by personal contributions as each felt inclined, the school was not reported. The school where the teacher was employed at \$8 per month was in connection with a select school."

This report showed that in 1868 there were 340 scholars, and in 1869 this had increased to 610. Two new schoolhouses were built during the year.

Wm. Emerick, county superintendent, made the following report of the condition of the public schools, for the year ending Sept. 30, 1870. "By comparison with last year's report a marked improvement may be observed in many particulars. The clerks of the several districts have been very prompt in sending their reports. The increase of the number of scholars over last year is 583; there being now 1,193 in the county reported. The increase of attendance over that of last year has been 246. The financial statements of the district clerks are anything but correct. A few reports, however, are prepared with care, and with a view to meet the requirements of law. To secure their proportion of the public money seems to be the whole aim of some of these school officers. Twelve new schoolhouses have been built

the present year, showing an interest in the right direction. School District No. 29, at Cedar Mills, has built a very handsome frame building the present summer at a cost of \$500.

The whole number of school terms this year is twenty-two, showing an increase of twelve over that of last year. These schools were taught by one male and twenty-four female teachers. Increase for the year, twelve teachers. Instead of thirty-four districts as my report shows, there are really but thirty-one, three of them have never been in running order, and have never drawn any public money. While my report shows five (5) districts as not reporting, there are really only two. Nine new districts have been organized the past year.

Since I entered upon the duties of my office (seven months) I have granted seventeen certificates to teachers, of which two are first grade, two second grade, and thirteen third grade.

We have had some good schools in the county during the summer term, especially when we take into consideration the disadvantages under which teachers and scholars have labored. Some schools have been taught in board shanties destitute of furniture, while others have been taught in private houses, and in the same room where the family lives. But two blackboards are used in the public schools of the county. We hope to see an improvement in this line the coming season. I have made a flying visit to most of the schools during the summer. Some schools were not in session when I was around. Border counties will not receive the attention from the county superintendents that they should unless the salaries are fixed by the Legislature."

In 1870 there were 34 districts in the county: number of districts reporting, 29; number of districts not reporting, 5. There were 7 frame and 6 log schoolhouses, their total value amounting to \$2,130. There were 642 male and 551 female scholars between 5 and 21 years of age in the county. During the winter term there were 21 male and 17 female scholars in attendance with an average of 26 in daily attendance, the average length of winter schools being three months. There were two female teachers during the winter months with an average wage of \$22.50 per month. During the summer there were 250 male and 215 female scholars in attendance with an average daily attendance of 263, the average length of the summer schools being 3.15 months. There were 19 female and one male teacher employed during the summer with an average monthly wage of \$16.00 for the male teacher and \$19.50 for the female teachers.

In his report of the county schools, Superintendent J. S. Geral, mentions the following: "My report shows a gratifying increase in the number of schools, in the number of scholars enrolled, and in the average length of schools. The financial condition of the

majority of districts is greatly improved. Seventeen new districts have been organized within the year, and ten have been reported entitled to the fall apportionment of 1880. Twenty-six new school houses have been erected during the two last years; the most of them are good, substantial frame buildings and well furnished. The condition of the schools has, during the past year, been better than in preceding years, although in many districts the summer term has been taught by young, inexperienced teachers, and in consequence the methods used have not always been the best. Irregular attendance impedes greatly the progress of our schools. The state text-books are used in all districts and seem to give fair satisfaction. The books should not, however, be sold by district clerks. In nearly all districts books are sold on credit, and some clerks have not yet settled for books received more than two years ago. Only twenty-five districts ordered books last spring and the books were received so late that they were of no use for the summer term.

The state institute held at Bird Island last fall was highly appreciated by the teachers in attendance, and the many practical suggestions made by the instructors were well received. I have tried to raise the standard of teachers as much as possible, and have rejected during the past year nearly twice as many applicants as during any previous year."

The report of the superintendent shows that there were 155 scholars not entitled to apportionment and 2,518 who were entitled to apportionment. During the winter term, 1,435 scholars were enrolled; during the summer, 1,906, with an average daily attendance of 690 during the winter and 874 during the summer. There were 87 common school districts, having 49 frame school-houses and 9 log buildings, with a total valuation of \$21,997.93. The total number of months taught by all teachers during the winter term was 123; during the summer, 169, the average number of months for the year taught by all teachers being 4.

The biennial report of the state superintendent of public instruction for the year 1890 shows that in Renville county there were 3,249 scholars entitled to apportionment and 1,556 not entitled to apportionment. During the fall term there were 2,617 scholars enrolled; during the winter, 2,260, and during the spring, 3,124, the average daily attendance for the year being 1,536. During the fall term, 16 male and 55 female teachers were employed; during the winter term, 19 male and 41 female teachers, and during the spring term, 12 male and 76 female teachers. In regard to the academic and professional training of the teachers the report states that 36 teachers have attended high school, 14 have attended normal school, 5 have attended college and 92 have attended teachers' institutes. Of this number, 6 are graduates of a high school, and 6 have graduated from a normal school.

Four teachers have have taught continuously in the district for two years, and 10 have taught there one year. There were 107 common school districts and one special district, making a total of 108, having in all 107 frame schoolhouses, valued at \$3,175, including 7 new school houses built during the year.

The Present Schools. Renville county is one of the large counties of the state as regards its number of schools. There are eight high schools, two graded, two semi-graded and 129 one-room rural schools. It also makes for the first time in its history, the boast of a consolidated school.

The high schools are located at Fairfax, Franklin, Morton, Sacred Heart, Renville, Olivia, Bird Island and Hector. The graded schools are at Buffalo Lake and Danube; the semi-graded in District 49, township of Brookfield, and District 71, township of Martinburg, while the consolidated school is the Morton high school, to which have been joined in consolidation parts of Districts 2 and 3. This plan has just been put into operation and all interested parties are expecting much good to come from it. Two vans are conveying the children to Morton, which school has, during this summer and fall, made ready for this new increase in its enrollment by an addition to their building, some special rooms for their new agricultural department, the installation of a new fan ventilating system, as well as some increase in their regular equipment and their teaching force.

District 15, Sacred Heart, and 82, Kingman, are unique in that each of these districts maintains two separate schools at opposite ends of the districts in order to better accommodate the children. This involves a double expenditure of money, since each school is a separate unit as to teacher, building, library and all necessary equipment.

Renville county is beginning to realize that the solution of the rural school problem lies in consolidation. Several of its districts are now seriously considering such a project for the near future, since their present buildings have been condemned for school use. The average school building in the county is far from what it ought to be, although a number of new buildings have been put up which meet the state requirements as to lighting, heating and ventilating.

Sixty-nine of the rural schools are of the so-called "A" class, meaning that they employ a teacher holding a state first-grade common school certificate or something better, are in session at least eight months yearly, and in other ways fulfill the requirements of the State Department of Education. In all, one hundred five of the rural schools receive special state aid. One hundred nineteen of the county schools loan the text-books free to the pupils attending. About 80 per cent of the rural schools are equipped with combined heating and ventilating plants; most of the schools are supplied with bubbler-fountains for drinking pur-

poses or with covered jars containing a faucet, in which case the individual drinking cup is used; good wells are found on a number of school grounds.

The average length of term for next school year is nine months in the graded and high schools, while in the rural schools it is 7.8 months (seven and eight-tenths) distributed as follows: five districts 9 months, ninety 8 months, twenty-four 7 months, nine 6 months, and, unfortunately, one district 5 months.

For several years the question of associating rural schools with some nearby central high or graded school has been of interest in this county. Hector high school was the first to take up this work with the result that it now has eight associated districts and is maintaining, besides its regular corps of teachers, a special teacher of sewing and cooking who devotes all her time to the teaching of these branches in the eight rural schools. In addition to this Hector has a commercial department housed in a new building just completed. The state is encouraging these commercial courses by allowing special state aid for one such course in each county and Hector drew the one for Renville county.

Fairfax also has eight districts, more recently acquired: the fact that one of these is located in Nicollet county speaks for the energy of the Fairfax high school. Renville has five, Olivia four and Bird Island three associated districts. Each central school supervises the teaching of the industrial subjects in the districts associated with it; besides which the instructors of agriculture and domestic science and art do a great amount of extension work among the rural patrons in the form of lectures, demonstrations and general advice. The agriculture instructors spend the entire year in the school locality and stand ready to help the farmers survey, spray orchards, lay tile, and various other things. For purposes of this extension work various conveyances are provided by the central school, to carry the instructors into the rural communities. Here Fairfax has taken the lead in the purchase of a Ford runabout, and it is rumored that Bird Island also is soon to buy an automobile. Bird Island leads in another particular, namely, in owning a moving picture machine, by means of which good motion productions can be brought to the school patrons at short intervals during the school year.

A number of the high schools are offering short winter courses in the academic subjects, in agriculture, blacksmithing, sewing, cooking, commercial, and other industrial subjects. These courses are especially designed to meet the needs of the country boy and girl who can attend only a short time during the winter months and who could not, to any advantage, pursue regular high school work.

The high schools have also been active in maintaining normal training departments, designed to prepare teachers for the rural

schools. These cadet teachers are not only given the pedagogical theory of teaching, but they do real practice teaching, under the supervision of their normal instructor and the regular grade teachers. They are also taken out to visit rural schools and occasionally are called upon to do substitute teaching in such schools. This class of instruction is meant to meet a long-felt need, namely, the provide especially trained rural school teachers. Owing to the increased stringency in the state requirements there are only three high schools offering such a course this year, namely, Olivia, Renville and Hector, with a total of about forty-five students enrolled for these three departments.

All these activities point to the fact that the people of Renville county realize that in school matters they cannot rightly be separated into a rural and an urban population, but that they must work together for the good of all, the villages contributing organization, superior equipment, a large and selected teaching force while the rural communities swell the enrollment, help share the financial burden, and in every way utilize the good things that the village stands ready to offer. It ought to be a concentrated effort on the part of all to make the schools of Renville county, whether in village or township, second to none in the state.

Statistics. The following items are taken from the report for 1914-15:

High and graded schools: Ten in number.

Pupils: Number of pupils entitled to apportionment, 2,135; number of pupils not entitled to apportionment, 265; total enrollment, 2,400; average number of days each pupil has attended, 150.95; number of pupils from 5 to 8 years of age, 367; number of pupils from 8 to 16 years of age, 1,622; number of pupils from 16 to 21 years of age, 405; total number of pupils from 5 to 21 years of age, 2,394; number from 8 to 16 years of age attending school during the entire term, 1,549.

Teachers: Number of men teachers in the year, 20; number of women teachers in the year, 83; average monthly wages of men teachers, \$113.66; average monthly wages of women teachers, \$71.08; number of teachers graduates of a high school, 88; number of teachers graduates of normal school, 52; number of teachers graduates of a college (not a business college), 37; number of teachers, not graduates, who have attended a normal school, 5; number of teachers, not graduates, who have attended a college, 5; number of teachers teaching continuously in one district for three years, 26; for two years, 31; for one year, 46.

Text-Books. Number of districts loaning text-books free, 10; number of districts selling text-books at cost, 1 and 1 high school; average department cost per pupil of text-books in districts loaning, \$1.03; average cost per pupil of text-books in districts selling, \$0.40.

Libraries and Arbor Day. Money expended by libraries, \$845.14. Number of books taken from libraries, 8,418; number of districts planting trees on Arbor day, 21; number of trees planted, 14.

Aggregate indebtedness of all districts, \$122,000; number of districts included, 9; average length of school in months, 9; average length of school in months voted for the coming year, 9; average number of voters present at annual school meeting, 47.

Receipts: Cash on hand at the beginning of the year, \$18,736.79; received from apportionment, \$12,552.25; received from special tax, \$55,534.02; received from local one-mill tax, \$3,731.38; received from special state aid, \$26,312.50; received from bonds, and other sources, \$16,809.46; total, \$133,676.40.

Disbursements: Paid for teachers' wages and board, \$68,662.21; paid for fuel and school supplies, \$9,656.07; paid for repairs and improving grounds, \$5,500.98; paid for new schoolhouses and sites, \$12,650.87; paid for bonds and interest, \$3,945.76; paid for library books, \$845.14; paid for text-books, \$3,092.07; paid for apparatus, \$2,040.88; paid for transportation of pupils, \$818.50; paid for all other purposes, \$10,084.82; cash on hand at end of year, \$16,379.10; total, \$133,676.40.

Semi-Graded and Rural Schools: Number, 131.

Pupils: Number of pupils entitled to apportionment, 3,036; number of pupils not entitled to apportionment, 390; total enrollment, 3,426; average number of days each pupil has attended, 97.81; number of pupils from 5 to 8 years of age, 787; number of pupils from 8 to 16 years of age, 2,540; number of pupils from 5 to 21 years of age, 3,422; number from 8 to 16 years of age attending school during the entire term, 1,424.

Teachers: Number of men teachers in the year, 7; number of women teachers in the year, 126; average monthly wages of men teachers, \$55.57; average monthly wages of women teachers, \$50.19; number of teachers graduates of a high school, 56; number of teachers graduates of a normal school, 5; number of teachers teaching continuously in one district for three years, 12; for two years, 27; for one year, 94; teachers, not graduates, attended high school, 44; teachers, not graduates, attended normal, 26; teachers, not graduates, attended college, 4; teachers, graduates of a high school training department, 65.

Text-Books: Number of districts loaning text-books free, 109; number of districts selling text-books at cost, 20; average cost per pupil of text-books in districts loaning, \$1.32; average cost per pupil of text-books in districts selling, \$0.85.

Libraries and Arbor Day: Money expended for books, \$1,519.02; number of books taken from the libraries, 12,023; number of districts planting trees on Arbor day, 29; number of trees planted, 298.

Aggregate indebtedness of all districts, \$8,229.29; number of districts included, 18; average length of school in months, 7.7; average length of school in months voted for the coming year, 7.8; average number of voters present at annual school meeting, 9.

Receipts: Cash on hand at the beginning of the year, \$32,-680.97; received from apportionment, \$17,934.25; received from special tax, \$36,936.63; received from local one-mill tax, \$11,-430.56; received from special state aid, \$13,053.00; received from bonds and other sources, \$1,682.54; total, \$113,717.95.

Disbursements: Paid for teachers' wages and board, \$51,-189.71; paid for fuel and school supplies, \$7,985.73; paid for repairs and improving grounds, \$5,005.83; paid for new school-houses and sites, \$657.55; paid for bonds and interest, \$1,006.93; paid for library books, \$1,519.02; paid for text-books, \$1,438.92; paid for apparatus, \$136.18; paid for transportation of pupils, \$376.41; paid for all other purposes, \$7,026.67; cash on hand at end of year, \$37,375.00; total, \$113,717.95.

Total of all public schools in the county:

Pupils: Number of pupils entitled to apportionment, 5,171; number of pupils not entitled to apportionment, 655; total enrollment, 5,826; average number of days each pupil has attended, 124.38; number of pupils from 5 to 8 years of age, 1,154; number of pupils from 8 to 16 years of age, 4,162; number of pupils from 16 to 21 years of age, 500; total number of pupils from 5 to 21 years of age, 5,816; number from 8 to 16 years of age attending school during the entire term, 297.3.

Teachers: Number of men teachers in the year, 27; number of women teachers in the year, 209; average monthly wages of men teachers, \$98.60; average monthly wages of women teachers, \$54.40; number of teachers graduates of a high school, 144; number of teachers graduates of a normal school, 57; number of teachers graduates of a college (not a business college), 37; number of teachers not graduates who have attended a high school, 54; number of teachers, not graduates, who have attended a normal school, 31; number of teachers, not graduates, who have attended a college, 9. Number of teachers teaching continuously in one district for three years, 38; for two years, 58; for one year, 140.

Text-Books: Number of districts loaning text-books free, 119; number of districts selling text-books at cost, 22; average cost of text-books in districts loaning, \$1.18; average cost of text-books in districts selling, \$0.68.

Libraries and Arbor Day: Number of books taken from the libraries, 20,441; number of districts planting trees on Arbor day, 31; number of trees planted, 312.

Aggregate indebtedness of all districts, \$130,229.29; number of districts included, 22; average length of school in months, 7.8;

average length of school in months voted for the coming year, 7.8; average number of voters present at annual school meeting, 12.

Receipts: Cash on hand at the beginning of the year, \$51,-417.76; received from apportionment, \$30,486.50; received from special tax, \$92,470.65; received from local one-mill tax, \$15,-161.94; received from special state aid, \$39,465.50; received from bonds and other sources, \$18,532.00; total, \$247,394.35.

Disbursements: Paid for teachers' wages and board, \$119,-851.92; paid for fuel and school supplies, \$17,641.80; paid for repairs and improving grounds, \$10,506.81; paid for new school-houses and sites, \$13,308.42; paid for bonds and interest, \$4,952.69; paid for library books, \$2,364.16; paid for text-books, \$4,530.99; paid for apparatus, \$2,177.06; paid for transportation of pupils, \$1,194.91; paid for all other purposes, \$17,111.49; cash on hand at end of year, \$53,754.10; total, \$247,394.35.

SOME MODEL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

An effort has been made to gather the history of the various school districts of the county. Below will be found a few typical districts.

District No. 1. The present schoolhouse is a building 20 by 30 feet with a small addition on the south for an entry and cloak room. It has six windows, three on each of two sides. The first school was held in John Kleisner's claim shanty which was near Franklin. The first teacher was Clements Tretbar. Among the first pupils were Anne Anderson (Mrs. I. Thompson); Julia Anderson (Mrs. E. S. Johnson), Andrew Anderson, A. J. Anderson, Louisa Haack (Mrs. J. B. Johnson), Otto Haack, Amelia Haack (Mrs. A. J. Anderson), Mary Johnson (Mrs. Bloom), John Johnson, Peter Peterson, Jacob Peterson. The first school board were: Halleck Peterson, John Anderson and Henry Graff. The next school was held in the valley. A log schoolhouse was built later a little southwest of the present site and the old state road passed it on the north. School was held during the winter and when the log building was too cold they met at the home of Mrs. Haack.

District No. 4. The schoolhouse is located in the northwest quarter of section 10 and has a bell tower and heating plant. The school yard is fenced and contains a few trees. It also has a barn and fuel shed. The present building was erected in 1901. The first school was opened in 1868 in the west quarter of section 2 with Irena Swift, now Mrs. Marsh of Redwood Falls, as teacher. Henry Ahrens and L. E. Morse were members of the first board. Some of the early teachers were Maggie Garritty, Nathaniel Swift, Lizzie Garritty, Maggie Powers, L. D. Barnard, Wm. Kelly and Kate Rourke. During the term of 1915 there were 32 children

enrolled. It was a first-grade school this last year, having been a third grade in other years. It has a library of 155 books. The present school board are Chas. Ahrens, director; Wm. Zumwinkle, treasurer, and Adolph Breitzkreutz, clerk.

District No. 10. The present schoolhouse is located in the southeast corner of section 10, township 112, range 33. It is a building 22 by 32 feet with a bell tower and bell and was built in the summer of 1905 to replace the one which had burned. The school district was organized March 28, 1870, the meeting being held in the house of Andrew Nelson, who was chosen moderator of the meeting. The following were elected as officers: Hans Pederson, director; John Zahn, clerk, and Henry Knof, treasurer. It was voted that a tax be levied for school purposes during the coming year as follows: teacher's wages, \$20.00; for building schoolhouse, \$25.00. The schoolhouse was erected in the spring of 1870, made of logs, 16 by 18 feet and 8 feet high, and school was opened June 13, 1870, for a term of three months with Sara Galahara as teacher. She was to receive \$16.00 per month. Other early teachers have been as follows: 1871, Sara Galahara, at \$16.00 per month; 1872, Eva Griffen, at \$20.00 per month; 1873, Eva Griffen, \$22.00 per month; 1874, Eva Griffen, \$25.00 per month; 1875, Marito Sands; 1876-78, Clara Phelps; 1879, Edward K. Pillet; 1880, Mary E. Abbott. In 1881 the old schoolhouse was sold and a new house built on the same place; in 1902 the schoolhouse was rebuilt and made larger. In 1905 the schoolhouse burned and the district suffered a loss of \$1,400.00. The present schoolhouse was built in 1905. The present directors are as follows: Director, Andrew E. Larson; treasurer, John O. Hagestad, and clerk, J. H. Elstad, who had been clerk for the last thirty years.

District No. 19. The schoolhouse is located on the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of section 9, and is a frame building with a furnace and bell tower. It was erected in 1900. The first school was opened in this district in 1872 with Kate McLaughlin as teacher. Jim Carr was one of the first officers. The first building was on section 16 in the northwest corner of the northwest quarter. A building was erected on the present site about 1882.

District No. 30. The schoolhouse is located on the southeast corner of section 12 and is equipped with a Waterbury furnace. The present frame building was erected in 1888 and is on the same site as the old building. The first school was opened in 1873 with Ada L. Phelps as teacher. The first school board were Thomas Horan, clerk; John Gammon and James Maxwell. The building was made of logs and built by Wm. Carson. Some of the early teachers were A. L. Phelps, A. F. Chase and Johanna A. Brice. In 1912 the district put in all the necessary requirements for a

Class A rural school and received state aid for same. The present teacher is Myrtle M. Sell.

District No. 36. The schoolhouse is pleasantly situated on the northwest corner of section 16 in Norfolk township. The present building was erected in 1885 and is equipped with a heating plant. Before the present schoolhouse was built a few terms of school were held in Mr. Frank Ederer's dwelling house, Mary O'Neill being the teacher. The first board were: Frank Ederer, Mike Maloney and Jas. McNealey. The first teacher was Kate Kirwan. Some of the early teachers were Alice Kirwan, Lizzie McHean, Sarah Heaney and Mamie Carr. The present school board are Frank Weyer, director; Joseph Ziller, clerk, and D. G. Avery, treasurer; the latter having been clerk for the past twenty years. The present teacher is Johanna E. Moran.

District No. 39. The schoolhouse is located on section 12 on the west line near the center of the section of Cairo township and has one-half acre of land. It was erected in 1882 and the district was organized several years before this. However this building was the first one erected. School was opened March, 1882, the first teacher being Anne Clark. The first officers were: ———— Thane, clerk; Charles Dieter, treasurer, and James Drake, director. The early teachers include the following: Mrs. Jane Hanna Maxwell, Zoella Bird, Elizabeth O'Hara. The present teacher is Winnie Nelson. The present officers are Otto Dahlgren, clerk; Alfred Dickmeyer, treasurer, and Theodore Reinke, director.

District No. 41. Hawk Creek is one of the old school districts of the county. The first meeting was held at the home of Haaken O. Agre, Oct. 7, 1871, and it was voted to have school three months commencing May 16, 1872. The following officers were elected: Director, Ole Hendrikson; clerk, Haaken O. Agre; treasurer, Ole O. Fugleskjel.

District No. 47. District No. 47 is located in section 26, southwest quarter, township 114, range 34. The first schoolhouse was eight rods west of the present building and was a small wooden building erected in the year, 1873. The first teacher was Catherine McLaughlin. Other early teachers included Margaret A. McCoffrey. The present schoolhouse was built in the year 1877. James Brown, Sr., hauled the lumber for the present building. It is a wooden building of medium size with three windows on the east and west sides. The building faces the south. It has no bell tower but has a heating plant. The first school officers were Mae McLaughlin, Patrick Williams and Paul Revier, Sr.

District No. 54. The school is located on section 10 in Wellington township and is a frame building 20 by 30 feet with a lean-to on the north for the cloak rooms and entrance. The lighting of the school is from the south and east sides. A large bell tower is built up above the entrance. The grounds contain

one acre of land, the building being near the north, and contain a few trees. The present schoolhouse was built about ten years ago and is built about fifteen rods north of the site of the old one. The first school opened in the district in 1881 with Lucy Mackenzie as teacher. The first directors were Julius Kiecker, William Schoenfelden and Carl Hillmann. Other early teachers were Paulina Greene and Agnes Trainer. The school is a one-room building facing east and is said to be the largest rural schoolhouse in the county. The present teacher is Anna Echerman.

District No. 56. The schoolhouse is on the southeast side of Wellington and was erected in 1882 by William Carson across the road from the old site. The first directors were William Borth, Charles Bleidk and William Carson. The first teachers were Ella McKenzie, Saul Demming and J. K. Demming. The school will receive state aid for the first time this year, it now being a first-grade school.

District No. 66. The schoolhouse is located on the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of section 25, range 33. It has a bell tower and a very large school ground with many boxelder trees. The schoolhouse was built in the 1895. School opened in the fall of 1895 with Henrietta Lunde, now Mrs. Holt of Crookston, Minn., as teacher. The first directors were: John Nestande, director; Ole Anderson, clerk, and John Mundahl, treasurer. Some of the early teachers were Ole Mundahl, Torval Pederson, Lillian Faust and Ole Kjeldergaard.

District No. 84. The school building is located on the southeast corner of section 3, township 114, Norfolk, on the state road about five miles south of Bird Island. The school building is equipped with a heating plant and has a well on the grounds. The present building was erected about 1880 and prior to that a school was held in one room of Anthony Tiller's home. The first building stood in the middle of the section but later was moved to the present location on account of the numerous storms. Once a teacher and several of the pupils were kept prisoners in the school house for three days while a terrible blizzard was raging. Among the early teachers were Matilda Meguyre and Mary Smith.

District No. 124. The schoolhouse is located on the southeast quarter of section 28 and is a frame building. It was erected in the spring of 1895. The first director was Tollof Pederson and the first teacher was Henrietta Lunde who taught four months. Other early teachers were Blanche Ericson and Anna Volen. The present clerk is Christ Sather.

District No. 135. The schoolhouse is located on the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 12, Beaver Falls township. The grounds slope to the south with no improvements beyond schoolhouse and outbuildings. The building was erected in

1901 when the district was organized and school was opened in 1901 with Kate O'Toole as teacher. The first school board were Louis Zinnie, clerk; G. A. Robertson, treasurer, and Julius Schefler, director. Some of the early teachers were Kate Ryan, Annie Keaveny, Julia Reineke and Kate O'Toole. There were twenty-five pupils when school opened, now there are thirteen. Agnes Peterson is the present teacher.

CHAPTER XXXII.

SWINE INDUSTRY IN RENVILLE COUNTY.

Pioneer Breeders and Their Experiences—The Four Great Outbreaks of Cholera in Renville County—Swine Breeders' Association Organized at Bird Island to Fill a Vital Need—Scarcity of Serum—Government Coöperation Secured—Swine Census—Government Veterinarians Arrive and Begin Work—Their Success—Results and Advice—Prepared by Ralph Loomis with the Coöperation of H. W. Leindecker and the Renville County Swine Breeders' Association.

The development of the swine industry in Renville county has been largely dependent upon two factors: markets and amount of corn grown. Prices were uncertain in the early days. While generally low, they sometimes became quite high. The building of the Milwaukee Railway through the county in 1878 and the St. Louis Railway in 1881 helped to steady the market. Selling by weight instead of by guess became general after the coming of the railroads. It is not long since stockbuyers would pay one farmer a dollar a hundred more for his hogs than they would offer another farmer in an adjoining township. As communication has become better by road and by telephone, this practice is gradually ceasing.

In the early days, flint corn was raised, but the grain used for fattening hogs was more likely to be barley or oats, or even wheat. As dent corn was adapted to Minnesota, and the acreage increased, more hogs were kept and fed for market with profit. Before the railroads were built, pork was sent to market dressed. After the coming of the railroads this practice was gradually discontinued as the packing industry at South St. Paul developed.

Wm. H. Jewell, now a resident of the village of Bird Island, saw good fat hogs sell in Beaver Falls for fifty dollars each before he had been in Renville county three years. Mr. Jewell came to Renville county in 1867, residing in Birch Cooley township thirty years. He was an early sheriff of Renville county. Mr. Jewell says that few hogs were raised in the early days because of the lack of corn. Apparently, corn was not grown successfully when

the country was new. He testifies as to the difficulty of growing corn in Wisconsin when that state was first settled. Mr. Jewell's old home in Wisconsin was ten miles west of Appleton. On account of the lack of corn and markets cattle were kept on a more extensive scale than hogs, finding a more ready sale.

Ole Anderson, a resident of Bird Island, settled one and one-half miles east of the present site of Franklin in 1866. Mr. Anderson's testimony is that more cattle than hogs were kept at first. After 1875 more corn and hogs were gradually introduced on his place. Hogs were worth about two cents per pound live weight in 1878. They were worth around three cents per pound most of the time. One fall, the fall of 1886 or 1887, hogs went to six cents per pound live weight. In two weeks the price dropped back to three and one-half cents.

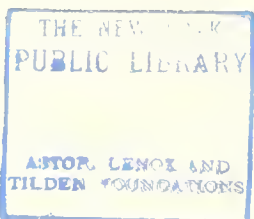
D. J. Hanlon homesteaded a quarter section of land in section 1, Birch Cooley township in 1868. Mr. Hanlon used to haul his wheat to New Ulm. While in New Ulm delivering wheat he got his first start in hogs, paying ten dollars for two six-weeks' old pigs. This was considered a very reasonable price at that time. Mr. Hanlon and his brother, Wm. Hanlon, hauled two loads of hogs, 16 head in all, to Redwood Falls in 1881. A buyer there paid five cents a pound for them, shipping to South St. Paul. The Hanlons were ferried across the river at North Redwood on the old Wilcox Ferry. The ferryman was having a hard time to keep the ferry open on account of ice. On the return trip they drove across the river on the ice.

Andrew Danielson, now a resident of Palmyra, settled in Birch Cooley in 1870. That year Mr. Danielson paid nine dollars for three hundred pounds of dressed pork for his own use. Chas. Zupke came to Melville township in 1880 from Jefferson county, Wisconsin. The first year only enough hogs were kept by Mr. Zupke to produce pork for home use. By 1890 he was raising enough hogs to have a load or two to spare each year. Mr. Zupke sold one load of seven hogs to a local buyer for fifty-two dollars. He thought they would weigh 300 pounds each. He was paid on the basis of 221 pounds. This was before the days of scale testing.

Mrs. Jos. Haggett, one of the early settlers of Melville township, states that two and one-half cents was a big price for hogs in the early nineties—the time of the panic. Farmers were accustomed to butcher and haul their pork to town for \$2.75 per hundred weight. Mrs. Haggett sold lard for from ten cents to a shilling a pound to private parties. At the J. Richardson Company store in Bird Island, lard was worth nine cents in trade. Eight or nine dollars was a common price for a fat hog in those days. In 1896 the Haggetts paid Ed Keenan of Melville Stock Farm \$28.00 for a purebred Poland China sow.



FIRST SALE OF HOGS AT THE COUNTY FAIR



Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wolff settled in section 32, Melville township, in 1879. They shipped some dressed pork to Minneapolis where friends disposed of it for them at four cents per pound. These people, as did many others, found it hard to dispose of pork except in the fall of the year when the butchers wanted it. They fattened their hogs on barley. Mrs. Wolff says that the hogs got many a pail of wheat when wheat was worth less than fifty cents per bushel.

Patrick O'Brien, now a well-to-do resident of Renville, settled in Flora township in the early seventies. To the O'Briens probably belongs the honor of bringing the first pure-bred hogs into Renville county. In 1869, while Mr. O'Brien still lived in Dakota county, he purchased two pure-bred Chester Whites of John S. Waite, Empire township, Dakota county. These were sent to his brother, John O'Brien, in Renville county. This stock gave satisfaction in every way to the purchasers. It was not bred pure and finally disappeared. Patrick O'Brien sold pork for three cents a pound dressed, making a business of turning three-cent pork into five-dollar land. As Mr. O'Brien expresses his sentiment in regard to this good business: "I thought I was raising Hell in those days. Guess I was, too." Mr. O'Brien retired from the farm in 1904.

But the pork producing business was not to be the simple process of feeding cheap corn to healthy hogs and loading the finished product on the cars for South St. Paul. With the increase in the number of hogs kept hog cholera became one of the determining factors of profitable hog raising. There was a serious outbreak of hog cholera in Minnesota in the years 1894-1896. During this period cholera came into Renville county, probably for the first time, and since then the infection has probably always been in the county. The disease appears to come and go in cycles. Cholera prevails in a community for two or three years. Disappears and then seems to come to life again in four or five years. In this county it seems that the disease has generally become epidemic first in the north and west townships of the county, gradually spreading to the east and finally to the southeast.

L. J. Kuske, now an officer of the Farmers' State Bank of Olivia, had cholera on his farm in Troy township in 1897. Cholera was general throughout the west end of the county that year. Mr. Kuske says that in 1897 and 1898 there was great loss in Winfield and Emmet townships, many farmers losing all their hogs. Farmers in the vicinity of Fairfax prided themselves on the care of their hogs. They were inclined to boast, upon being told of the losses north of Olivia and Renville, that their hogs being better taken care of were immune to cholera. They even dared to haul corn from the infected areas of the county. Knowl-

edge of the infectiousness of the disease was not general in those days. Cholera was in full swing about Fairfax in 1899. In the epidemic of 1912-1915, cholera losses were not large in 1912 except in the north and west townships; in 1913 cholera prevailed in all the townships of the county except those of the extreme south and east; in 1914 the townships about Fairfax were the hardest hit of all, while the townships about Renville were recovering.

Probably cholera infection has existed in this county continuously since 1894. There seems to have been four principal outbreaks occurring in the following periods of years: 1894-1899, 1901-1903, 1907-1909 and 1912-1915.

The First Cholera Outbreak in Renville County. Probably cholera first broke out among the hogs of Renville county in 1894. Information as to this outbreak comes from Michael Holden, at that time chairman of the town board of Henryville township, and now a stockbuyer at Morton. Two farmers from Flora township went to New Ulm for a visit. Cholera prevailed in the country about New Ulm. Not long after the visitors return home cholera broke out in Flora township. The first year the disease was confined to five or six farms. Mr. Holden, as chairman of his town board, wrote to Dr. M. H. Reynolds, then as now with the Veterinary Division of the Minnesota Agricultural College, asking for quarantine blanks. These blanks were posted on infected premises in Henryville township.

A meeting to spread the knowledge of hog cholera prevention was held in Redwood Falls about 1895. Mr. Holden attended this meeting. It was addressed by Dr. Reynolds and by Dr. Bracken, the latter of the State Board of Health.

An incident occurred in Henryville township which shows that some men acted then as now when their premises were under quarantine. Mr. Holden had quarantined the Schultz farm on account of cholera and had warned Mr. Schultz to keep away from the premises of his neighbors. Mr. Holden was traveling on the road one day when a shower forced him to take shelter at the Herman Goose farm. There he found Schultz, who had come in ahead of him, also to escape the rain. His horse was already in the barn. Goose had twelve head of hogs in the barn, which he had come within five cents a head of selling to Tom Leary. Holden gave Schultz a deserved scolding for thus exposing his neighbor's hogs to cholera. Goose made no objection to the risk he was running, saying that the prevention of cholera was merely a matter of feeding. In about ten days Holden was called to quarantine the Goose farm. It was too late to accept Leary's offer. Goose lost all of his twelve fat hogs. Mr. Holden testifies as to the great difficulty of getting people to observe quarantine regulations at that early date.

In many cases hogs have been sick and the diagnosis as to the disease has been very uncertain. Trouble from worms and other causes has been called cholera and trouble from cholera has often been laid to some other ailment. One instance of this is furnished by the first cholera epidemic. Emil Breutkreutz had a sickness among his hogs that was popularly called lumbago and rheumatism. The symptoms shown we now know to be those of cholera.

The initial outbreak of cholera did not seem to be serious the first year or two. From 1896 to 1899 it was doing its worst. Wm. O'Connor of Sacred Heart says that O'Connor Bros. lost 300 hogs in those years. Most of these hogs were pure-bred Poland Chinas. What few hogs that were spared in the epidemic were shipped. The O'Connor Bros. started breeding Poland Chinas in 1892, shipping in their foundation stock from Illinois, where as much as seventy-dollars per head was paid for some hogs.

Patrick O'Brien, the man who first imported pure-bred hogs into Renville county, lost 86 out of 111 hogs in 1894. The next year he lost 84 and in 1896 his losses were 40.

In 1896 the cholera epidemic became general about Hector. Geo. Johnson, now of the firm of Johnson Bros., hardware and implement dealers of Hector, owned a farm in Hector township at the time and lost over 60 hogs. Joe Nicke, who lived on the Geo. Eichmiller farm in Osceola, now owned by August Beske, lost 80 fat hogs in 1896. Nicke had bought hogs from various parties to fatten. He told Chas. Wolff, then a farmer of Melville township, that his hogs would not get cholera because he was dosing them with turpentine and asafoetida. Evidently his experience did not back up his theory. Mr. Nicke let his hogs run loose. From this practice, Albert Wulkan, a neighbor, lost 18 out of 20 hogs by the cholera route.

Mule foot hogs have often been advertised as immune to cholera. As far back as 1896 this theory was proved false in Renville county. A farmer living not far west of Hector hauled off his mule foot hogs after cholera had commenced on them.

During this general epidemic of cholera about Hector an effort was made to make some use of the cholera infected hogs. Three men, Gus Lunder, Oscar Peterson and Wells Thompson started a steam rendering plant. One cent a pound was paid for the carcasses of hogs that had died from cholera. The rendered fat was mixed with beef tallow from the butcher shop in which these men were interested, and the resulting product was sold for lubricant to a Minneapolis concern who paid from two and one-half to three cents per pound for it. It was closed after it had run about a year.

Cholera existed in the county about Buffalo Lake in 1895, staying in the county two or three years. Wm. Carrigan, now deputy sheriff of Renville county, was working for his uncle, Michael

Carrigan, at that time. The elder Carrigan had a herd of forty or fifty hogs siek with cholera. He heard in town that if one of the cholera hogs was roasted and fed to the others they would recover. This was thought worth trying, but the proposed remedy was found to be of no more use than all the other remedies prescribed for cholera. Mr. Carrigan saved eight or ten hogs. They had cholera in the worst form, the ears and tails of some sloughing off. Cholera did not visit Boon Lake township again until 1913. However, there was a sprinkling of cholera about Buffalo Lake in 1907 and 1908.

In 1898 cholera became epidemic in the vicinity of Fairfax and Franklin. A. J. Anderson of Camp township lost all of his hogs save one, the boar. Sam Lee saved seven out of 50 in 1899. It is doubtful whether this epidemic was entirely due to the disease having existed in the northern part of the county. Whenever there was a crop failure in Nebraska and Iowa hogs were shipped from those states to Minnesota for fattening and invariably cholera came with them. The hogs came through the large stock yards of Sioux City and Omaha, always centers of infection.

Andrew Danielson, a resident of Palmyra since 1875, lost hogs from cholera in October, 1897. The disease came into Palmyra by way of Norfolk township. Forty of his forty-seven hogs had died of cholera. T. Geisner of Bird Island was going through Palmyra dehorning cattle. He offered to save the remaining seven by vaccination. Geisner made an incision in the skin of each hog, packed the wound with a greaselike substance, and charged two dollars per head for his services. Six out of seven survived this treatment. With our present knowledge of cholera we may know that these hogs were on the road to recovery without treatment. This is just one of the many instances where farmers have been imposed on with a "cure" for hog cholera. E. B. Wolff and Geo. Muench had cholera on their Melville farms the same year. The next year the disease was quite bad north of Bird Island and Olivia.

In 1899 H. M. Noah of the Morton firm of Noah & Orth bought a small farm near town and stocked it with hogs from "all over" as Mr. Orth stated the case. Then, as Mr. Orth put it, "there was Hell to pay." The worst form of cholera was introduced into the townships of Beaver Falls and Birch Cooley. The outbreak was very violent, few farms escaping the disease and few hogs being saved. Robt. Simmons, a prominent farmer living about two miles east of Morton, was one of those who lost 100 head of hogs at this time.

Outbreak of 1901-1903. For a time the county seems to have been comparatively free from heavy cholera losses, though the disease was yet present in the county. Ed Paulson, now county

commissioner, was buying stock at Sacred Heart in 1902. In those days when a herd of hogs showed signs of cholera they were hustled to South St. Paul. Mr. Paulson took down a load of exposed hogs that were showing symptoms of the disease when unloaded at South St. Paul. His commission man said, "Keep them moving or they will lay down and die on you." By brisk exercise of the whip, the hogs were kept on their feet until a buyer was found.

Outbreak of 1907-1908.—In 1907 and 1908 a good deal of cholera prevailed in the county. Certain proprietary remedies were sold as a cure, none proving to be of any value as a cholera preventive or as a cure. The buyers were simply out that much money. J. W. Rusch of Buffalo Lake states that there were scattered cases of cholera about Buffalo Lake in those years. The disease existed on some farms near Hector. Chas. Torbert of Hector township saved only five out of his herd. F. Hagermeister of Melville township saved four out of twelve. This epidemic of cholera about Fairfax was not so general as the one of 1898-99.

Nowhere was the disease any worse in 1908 than it was in Winfield township. Ulrick Julson lost all of his herd of 100 hogs. R. Peterson and Gust Tolzman lost all of their hogs. Others suffered in about the same proportion. Martin Peterson of Crooks township lost his hogs every year from 1898 to 1909 whether from cholera or not is a doubtful question. Since 1909 Mr. Peterson has not been troubled. He ascribes this happy circumstances to his having gotten in Duroc Jerseys for foundation stock.

Outbreak of 1912-1915.—The most serious outbreak of cholera in the history of the county commenced in 1912. The first year this epidemic was worst in the townships centering about Renville. Emmet township lost about 1,500 hogs the first year (1912) and Crooks almost as many. O'Connor Bros., farmers and bankers of Renville, made the first move toward the only known means of saving hogs in a cholera infected country. In July, 1912, they vaccinated fifty hogs on their farm with virus and anti-hog cholera serum, the so-called double treatment. In May, 1913, 720 hogs were double treated in the vicinity of Renville, O'Connor Bros. having secured the coöperation of the Live Stock Sanitary Board and of the agricultural department of the local high school in which F. Krause, a graduate of Iowa Agricultural College, was instructor. These 720 hogs belonged to sixteen farmers. All passed through the cholera epidemic that year save one that died of blood poisoning following the breaking of a needle while being vaccinated. All summer hogs were dying like flies on neighboring farms while 719 hogs on sixteen farms not only thrived but proved immune to the disease when placed in lots

where carcasses of hogs dead from cholera were lying about. It was thus conclusively shown by this local demonstration that cholera could be prevented, a large part of the risk thus being eliminated from the swine raising business. It remained to bring this knowledge home to the people raising hogs, and to devise ways and means for making use of this knowledge. The following year (1913) was the worst year for swine breeders since hogs were raised in the county. In this year a movement was launched **that will forever prevent the recurrence of an epidemic similar to the disastrous one of 1913.**

In August, 1913, a farmer of Osceola township paid eight dollars and forty cents to have two hogs vaccinated with anti-hog cholera serum. That was reason for the beginning of the Renville County Swine Breeders' Association. This farmer, H. W. Leindecker, conceived the idea that if the farmers would organize and buy their serum collectively, hiring a veterinarian to work for the club, good serum would be obtained with a smaller margin of profit to the manufacturer, since the serum would be bought in wholesale quantities, and the veterinarian working by the day would be willing and could afford to set a price easier on the farmer.

This was in the fall of 1913, a year when, as subsequent enumeration showed, more than one-half of the hogs of the county died of cholera. Two-thirds of the hogs raised in Bird Island township died from the disease. In Osceola the loss was a little less than half, in Kingman a little more than half, in Melville, two-thirds, and in Norfolk and Birch Cooley townships fully four-fifths of the hogs on farms in 1913 died from cholera. The number of farms in the vicinity of Bird Island on which hogs were raised and not visited by cholera could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

A meeting, to be held at the Bird Island Village Hall, of those interested in handling the cholera situation collectively instead of as individuals, was called for Saturday, October 4. Not enough were present at the first meeting to organize. Another meeting was called for the following Saturday. W. E. Morris, county agent, presided as temporary chairman. An organization was formed with the following officers: H. W. Leindecker (Osceola), president; Geo. W. Wolff (Melville), vice-president; Ralph Loomis (Agricultural Teacher, Bird Island public schools), secretary-treasurer. Directors were not chosen until the following Saturday. The first directors were: Joe Kienholz, E. J. Wilson, Nels Mattson, Arthur Patrick and H. J. Jungelaus. The name adopted for the organization at the meeting of the 11th was the "Renville County Swine Breeders' Club." Its object was declared to be "to get and keep a supply of serum on hand, and by other means to further the interests of swine growers." Those

present at the first meeting were H. W. Leindecker, Joe Kienholz, August Zupke, Geo. W. Wolff, Fred Koelker, P. D. Boyland, Jas. Murray, Henry Krueger, W. E. Morris, Ed Kienholz, R. J. Porter, Jas. Lucas and Ralph Loomis.

The task before the newly organized club was two-fold. The first phase of its work was educational. The part that serum might play in controlling cholera had to be made plain. Serum was a new thing to the people of the county. Many regarded it as a cure while it is only of value as a preventive. Many had lost faith in serum because it had not cured their hogs. Since serum had not been in common use in the county before 1913, unscrupulous people were able to market large quantities of impotent serum in the county, serum that was of no more value than so much water, and often more dangerous. It is said on good authority that prune juice was sold as serum in one Minnesota locality.

Then there was the harm done by giving important serum with virus. Why the results were disastrous had to be explained. Hogs vaccinated with good serum by the single treatment lose their immunity after four or five weeks. How these hogs might die after vaccination and still vaccination be of any use had to be explained. That the organization was successful in its educational work is shown by its membership in the year 1914. Over seven hundred people of the county became so convinced in the efficacy of serum as a cholera preventive as to each invest a dollar for membership in the Renville County Swine Breeders' Association. About one hundred more joined the Association in 1915.

The second part of the organization's work was the active resistance to hog cholera—hog cholera control. How that was handled will be shown later in this article.

Throughout the fall and winter meetings were held regularly on the first Saturday of each month in the Bird Island Village Hall. Special meetings were also held. Always the principal questions were hog cholera, when would serum prevent it, how could good serum be obtained, what was the best treatment, and what was the possibility of introducing cholera into the herd if virus were used? The agricultural teachers of Hector and Renville told the club of the work in their own communities. The results at Renville were as given above. At Hector, the agricultural teacher, O. M. Kiser, vaccinated about one thousand hogs with a saving of about 70 per cent of all treated in non-infected and infected herds. Mr. Kiser used the serum-only treatment.

By mid-winter the club had a membership of forty. A similar club was organized at Fairfax. During the cholera epidemic, hogs were bought in Bird Island at a margin of two dollars on the South St. Paul market, and "bought subject." That is, if the hogs died of cholera or were condemned at the market, the

farmer who raised them stood the loss. If the hogs were all right when the market was reached, the shipper had the benefit of a two-dollar margin rather than the usual one of fifty cents per hundred pounds. This condition brought about the organization of the Bird Island Stock Shipping Association. The organization was formed at a meeting of the Swine Breeders' Association. This Stock Shipping Association shipped forty-six cars of live stock the first six months of its existence. Its business has greatly increased as cholera is brought under control and there are more hogs to ship.

Since cholera was so generally present in 1913, a return of the epidemic was expected in 1914. The club expected to meet the situation in 1914 with plenty of serum on hand. In 1913 it was almost impossible to get good serum from any source. The state serum plant was able to fill only a fraction of the orders given it. Assurance had been given the club that the state's serum plant was to be enlarged to take care of the increased demand made on it for serum. State serum sold at one-third of a cent per cubic centimeter while other serum cost from one and one-half to three cents.

A meeting was called for February 21, 1914, Secretary Loomis sending out a circular letter to all the members asking them to come in on that day to place an order for serum in proportion to the number of hogs they expected to keep. Eighty farmers ordered about 145,000 cubic centimeters of serum on that day—enough serum to vaccinate four thousand young hogs. This serum was ordered and paid for at the state price of one-third of a cent. The Secretary of the club, Ralph Loomis, and the President, H. W. Leindecker, constituted the committee to go to the cities and place the order for serum. The committee went to the cities on February 25 and went first to the state serum plant. The state serum plant is located on the grounds of the Agricultural College in St. Anthony Park, St. Paul. It is operated by the College's Veterinary Division of which Dr. M. H. Reynolds is Chief.

When the order was handed to Dr. Reynolds, he was informed that the club was only asking for one-fourteenth of the state's annual output! The idea of the entire order being filled by the state was laughed at, the report that the state serum plant was to be enlarged at once to take care of the current year's demand proving erroneous. This meant that the club could not get all the serum wanted at the state's reduced price. Eventually, the state promised to give the club 50,000 c. c., about one-third of the original order. The balance, 95,000 c. c., would have to be purchased from commercial plants at about one and one-half cents per c. c. The committee visited various commercial houses making arrangements to order serum in wholesale lots.

. A few days before going to the cities as a member of the Serum Committee President Leindecker read a newspaper article to the effect that Congress had appropriated half a million dollars for work in hog cholera control, the plan being to take one county in each of the hog raising states for a demonstration county. Free serum and free veterinary service were to be furnished in the respective counties, to demonstrate what could be done in the way of cholera control. The committee verified this newspaper story while at the agricultural college, and sought to have Renville County made the Demonstration County for Minnesota. An organization in the county was one of the requirements of the government for the county chosen as a demonstration county. This organization was needed to carry on the work of education, take a census of the hogs and of the cholera losses, encourage sanitation, etc. Our argument for Renville county was that we were already organized, having organizations of swine breeders at both Bird Island and Fairfax. Furthermore, Mr. Loomis and Mr. Leindecker promised that if the county were made the demonstration county for Minnesota, the remainder of the county would be brought into the organization.

These arguments impressed the authorities. Dean Woods promised that he would do what he could for Renville county. Dr. Ward of the Live Stock Sanitary Board, Governor Eberhart and Dr. Reynolds were interviewed in behalf of Renville county. The committee was informed that it would receive word by letter as to the decision of the Bureau of Animal Industry at Washington with whom final authority rested.

The following week was an anxious one for the officers of the Renville County Swine Breeders' Club. Since the entire amount of serum ordered could not be obtained at the price of one-third of a cent per c. e., it was necessary to send out a circular letter to those ordering serum telling them of this circumstance, and that in order to maintain the size of their respective serum orders more money would be needed. Since the decision of the Bureau of Animal Industry was not yet known, nothing was said about it in this letter. When the secretary of the club was informed by letter that Renville county was chosen as the demonstration county for Minnesota, money was still received for serum until it was definitely known that the government men would commence work before summer.

On March 13, Ralph Loomis, Secretary of the Renville County Swine Breeders' Club, was notified by letter that Renville county had been chosen as Minnesota's demonstration county. This letter from Dean Woods was read at the Swine Breeders' meeting of March 14. Plans were at once laid to make the organization county wide. Representatives of all the commercial clubs of the county were summoned by phone to meet in the Bird Island Com-

mercial Club Rooms the following Monday, the sixteenth. Representative business men were thus summoned because through them the farmers of their respective communities could be reached most rapidly. At the meeting on the following Monday, all the towns in the county were represented save Fairfax. The car bringing the Fairfax delegation broke down before reaching Bird Island. At this meeting, the necessity of organization and census taking under the government requirements was explained and dates set for organization meetings in the various towns of the county. The following article was sent to the newspapers of the county to acquaint the people with the project that was being launched for the benefit of all Renville county:

"Renville county has been designated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and by the Minnesota Agricultural College as the official demonstration county for federal work in hog cholera control. This means that the federal government will furnish serum so far as it is able to supply it. The balance will probably be furnished by the state at present prices. A campaign will be waged against cholera until the job is done—until there is no more cholera in the county. The work will be started some time this season. Before the government veterinarians are administering serum, much preliminary work will be done, the county must be organized into districts and a committee in charge of each district. There will be an organization for each district—an Anti-Hog Cholera Club. These clubs are to be used in spreading knowledge as to how the disease may best be fought. A census of the hogs in the county and of the losses occurring the first season will be taken. All farmers are urged to give their active support to this work which means so much to the whole county.

"Renville county was designated as the demonstration county of Minnesota for two reasons. First, no other county of the state suffered heavier losses from cholera. Second, the state agricultural college authorities were shown that Renville county had the best organization for a successful fight against hog cholera. The education and co-operative work of the Renville County Swine Breeders' Club secured for Renville County the aid of the U. S. Government in fighting hog cholera.

"The Renville County Swine Breeders' Club has headquarters at Bird Island. It was organized in October, 1913, to promote the swine raising industry, and particularly to fight cholera. Meetings were held each month to hear speakers from the agricultural college speak on cholera and its control. The organization has a membership of 115. The club has members at Danube, Renville, Olivia, Hector, and Franklin. A similar club was organized at Fairfax by the President of the club at Bird Island. At a meeting held February 21, the club members deposited money

with the Secretary for 145,000 cubic centimeters of serum. The President of the club, H. W. Leindecker, a farmer of Osceola township, and the Secretary, Ralph Loomis, Instructor in Agriculture, Bird Island Public Schools, were named as a committee to arrange for the serum.

"The committee went to St. Paul to interview those in charge of the State Serum Plan. Dr. Reynolds, head of the Veterinary Division of the Agricultural College, stated that the Renville county plan for organizing against cholera was the best he had heard of and was the most proper way to fight hog cholera. However, the 145,000 cubic centimeters of serum asked for was one-fourteenth of the state plant's output. He could not furnish the club that amount. In the end the state promised to furnish the Swine Breeders' Club with 50,000 cubic centimeters.

"Dean A. F. Woods told the committee that the Bird Island plan was the best he had seen put up yet and that he wished that all the counties of the state would organize in a similar manner. Dean Woods, Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Ward of the Live Stock Sanitary Board were interviewed by the committee in behalf of having Renville county designated as the demonstration county. Dean Woods promised to recommend this county to the government authorities because this county was organized.

"The Serum Committee returned from St. Paul the last day of February. On the thirteenth day of March the Secretary was notified that Renville county had been designated as the demonstration county. Plans for organizing the county have been formulated. Members of all commercial clubs in the county were requested by telephone to meet with the Bird Island Commercial Club March 16 to get the matter before them. Since it is not known when the government will get to the actual work of administering serum, the Swine Breeders' Club is receiving money for serum in the event that the government does not get the preliminary work done before early summer. Dr. Reynolds of the Agricultural College thinks that the work will be under way at that time. The Renville County Swine Breeders' Club secured the designation of this county as the Government Demonstration County. Residents of Renville county can show their appreciation of this service and help the work of organizing the county by joining the club. The membership fee is one dollar and the dues are fifty cents a year. Those wishing to join, sign an application card and send it to the Secretary of the Renville County Swine Breeders' Club, Bird Island, Minnesota."

Then commenced a vigorous campaign on the part of the officers of the club in organizing the county. In two months, organization work was done that would ordinarily have taken two years. It is a fact to be wondered at that so much was accomplished with so little friction. Mr. Leindecker put in forty-six

days and a good many nights, without pay, in organizing the county. He knew what it was to lose his hogs. To him is credit due for directly saving thirteen thousand hogs by vaccination in 1914, with an indirect saving of twice as many more. The sacrifice and bravery of Mrs. Leindecker should be remembered. Mrs. Leindecker stayed on the farm alone with three small children while her husband was serving the people of the county that the government might find a county efficiently organized when it came to take up the work.

The directors of the Swine Breeders' Club ordered that the expenses of the work of organization should be paid out of the Club's treasury, so long as the club was not run into debt. The program of the president and secretary in organizing the county was as follows: March 19, Hector; March 20, Franklin; March 21, Bird Island; March 23, Buffalo Lake; March 24, Sacred Heart; March 25, Renville; March 26, Morton; March 28, Fairfax. Danube and Olivia organized early in April. Several township organizations were formed in the period of greatest activity, among them the Farmers' Clubs of Norfolk, Hawk Creek and Melville. At all meetings the officers and County Agent Morris explained the requirements of the government for organization, taking the census of hogs, etc.

At first separate clubs were not formed in each town. To A. J. Olin, of Franklin, credit is due for the plan of organizing the county by trading points. Fairfax had such a club. Franklin organized its own club as a branch of the Renville county organization. Similar clubs were organized in Olivia and Danube in April, 1914. Branches of the county organization, now incorporated as the Renville County Swine Breeders' Association, were organized in Sacred Heart and Buffalo Lake in the spring of 1915. Every town in the county should have its local club affiliated with the Association. When the government demonstration is discontinued, the county will be thrown upon its own resources in controlling cholera.

The government veterinarians, with Dr. G. S. Weaver as Inspector-in-Charge, established headquarters in Olivia, April 8, 1914. Immediately after the selection of Renville county as a demonstration county, the Secretary of the association commenced to bombard the Bureau of Animal Industry at Washington with telegrams informing the officials of that bureau that the county was organized and asking for the form to be used in getting the census. When no form was sent, the questions used on the census card in Pettis county, Missouri, Missouri's demonstration county in 1913, were telegraphed for and then submitted to Washington. In every possible way were the authorities impressed with the readiness of the county for the work and the willingness to co-operate in making the work a success.

The proper form for taking the census was not obtained until seeding time when the farmers were all busy. To rush the taking of the census, each town of the county was visited by an officer of the association, Dr. Weaver and County Agent Morris. In the respective towns, business men co-operated in getting men to take the census of the hogs. In the towns having agricultural teachers, Olivia, Renville and Hector, the census was left to these men. For taking the census, one committeeman was appointed for each four sections, making nine for each township. One of the nine was designated as chairman of his township. Each committeeman visited the farms in his four sections filling out a census card for each farm. Below is given a copy of the census card and a set of instructions such as were given out to committeemen.

Instructions to committeemen:

Before the federal men can commence vaccinating hogs and practicing other control methods against cholera in Renville county, it will be necessary that a hog census be taken. The sooner this is taken, the better it will be for all concerned. It is, therefore, desirable that your heartiest co-operation be given in this work.

As a committeeman, you will serve permanently without salary. Your duty is to take a hog census of the four sections allotted to you. In taking this census, fill out the cards and return them to the chairman of the township committee. Cards must be filled out for every farmer whether he is a swine raiser or not. Secure all the information asked for on these cards. Have each man give you definite answers to all questions and write plainly.

After the census is completed, your duty will be to keep the United States Inspector-in-Charge advised concerning the conditions in your territory, such as cholera outbreaks, negligence, etc. The Inspector may be reached by telephone in his office in the Court House at Olivia.

The results of the census are here given by townships. In 1915, there were sixteen United States Government demonstration areas for work in hog cholera control, similar to that of Renville county. The census taken in Renville county was probably the most complete of all.

A meeting of all interested in hog cholera control was held at the Armory in Olivia, April 30, 1914. Dean Woods of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Reynolds of the Veterinary Division, Dr. Niles of the Bureau of Animal Industry and Dr. Ward of the Live Stock Sanitary Board were present and spoke.

The following is taken from an article written by William A. Schummers of Olivia, an excellent account of the Bureau of Animal Industry's work:

"The Minnesota station in Renville county is in charge of Dr. G. S. Weaver, who is assisted by three veterinary inspectors, Dr. L. R. Smith, Dr. H. L. Duell and Dr. Morris Zurkow. The State Live Stock Sanitary Board has a local representative, Dr. H. Evenson, also located at Olivia, and the State Agricultural College is represented by W. E. Morris, Agricultural Agent of Renville county. These agencies co-operate in the county work. Generally, the vaccination and the treatment of diseased hogs is taken care of by the federal authorities. Sanitary conditions and quarantine are enforced by the representative of the State Sanitary Board, and the educational work in the matter of hog cholera prevention is in charge of the County Agent.

"Veterinary science has not yet produced a specific that will cure hog cholera. The method of treatment is an immunity producing process. Serum is prepared in the federal laboratory from the blood of hogs that have recovered from the disease. It is found that such hogs have in their blood immune bodies which transmitted into the blood of other swine offer resistance to infection or minimize the severity of the disease if already contracted. This immunity is of a temporary nature. Permanent immunity usually follows an attack of the disease if the animal recovers. The administration of the immunizing serum is usually referred to as the single treatment. For the purposes of producing permanent immunity a double treatment is employed, which consists of giving the immunizing serum, together with active virus from afflicted hogs, with the intention of producing a mild form of the disease, which will be so controlled by the immune bodies that the hog will recover without serious results, and then will have permanent immunity. The single treatment is the method employed in most cases among the afflicted and exposed

CENSUS OF HOGS AND CHOLERA LOSSES—RENVILLE COUNTY.

Township.	Old Hogs.	Shoats.	Pigs.	Lost 1914.	Raised 1913.	Lost 1913.	Raised 1912.	Lost 1912.
Bandon	443	166	1,006	46	3,345	2,780	2,514
Beaver Falls	404	194	392	4	2,778	1,862	2,241	378
Birch County	852	350	1,018	88	5,254	4,162	4,055	130
Bird Island	533	170	861	26	3,987	1,981	1,922	218
Bon Lake	673	490	1,611	52	2,611	377	1,144
Brookfield	499	409	943	421	3,650	1,619	2,098	122
Cairo	832	378	2,349	161	3,574	428	2,511
Camp	492	103	975	65	2,642	1,781	1,880
Crooks	1,308	287	1,181	26	2,613	647	2,994	1,359
Emmet	606	621	1,443	20	2,504	454	3,076	1,542
Ericsen	736	119	847	15	2,562	890	2,708	948
Flora	624	193	986	102	2,536	1,219	2,307	784
Hawk Creek	473	240	976	3	2,430	971	2,048	13
Hector	530	189	1,337	193	3,472	2,330	2,247	68
Henryville	436	230	873	36	2,645	1,742	1,889	345
Kingman	507	45	913	64	2,969	1,602	2,178	146
Melville	667	148	997	57	3,447	2,228	2,108	361
Martinsburg	861	310	1,234	20	3,175	902	2,235	2
Norfolk	488	233	1,000	81	3,996	3,377	3,326	498
Osceola	829	176	841	63	3,649	1,564	2,168	30
Palmyra	587	89	722	40	3,975	2,878	2,625	2
Preston Lake	556	305	1,717	15	3,124	1,559	2,468
Sacred Heart	558	322	727	16	3,525	2,148	3,541	718
Troy	417	115	562	82	2,246	1,190	2,592	759
Wang	816	256	1,116	36	2,753	506	1,969	58
Wellington	824	222	2,084	59	3,729	803	2,690	45
Winfield	436	93	895	145	2,799	1,603	2,346	472
	16,787	6,353	29,593	1,960	85,699	43,403	65,790	8,998

52,733

Number of hogs in County May 1, 1914.

herds, whereas the double treatment is sometimes used on valuable blooded stock and stock for shipment out of the county. A very great objection to the double method is the danger of starting an epidemic of the disease where it is not already prevalent, which results at times from the infection getting beyond the control of the serums used to restrict it.

"It is probably true that the occasional cases where the single treatment has failed and resulted in great mortality are mainly those in which defect or impurity in the serum has resulted in giving the vaccinated hogs blood poisoning, and the mortality in these cases is usually from that cause rather than from cholera.

"On one of the walls of the Federal Station at Olivia hangs a map of Renville county with colored tacks to indicate the presence of the disease. In August, 1915, only half a dozen of these tacks adorned the map at various points. It affords a striking illustration of the success of the government fight against hog cholera. The disease has practically disappeared, but quarantines are being maintained to prevent a recurrence of the outbreak.

"This free government aid has been of immense value to the farmers of Renville county engaged in the production of pork. Every dollar spent has brought manifold returns in hogs saved. As an educational campaign for the prevention of this disease, its benefits will be projected many years into the future."

Statement of the Work of the Bureau of Animal Industry in Renville County (Furnished the Renville County Swine Breeders' Association by Dr. G. S. Weaver). 1. General statement: 1. Number of hogs raised in Renville county in 1912, 65,790. 2. Number of hogs raised in Renville county in 1913, 85,699. 3. Number of hogs that died of hog cholera in Renville county in 1912 (this number is included in the number raised in 1912), 8,998. 4. Number of hogs that died of hog cholera in Renville county in 1913 (this number is included in the number raised in 1913). 5. Date headquarters were established in Renville county, April 8, 1914. 6. Date on which first herd was treated, May 8, 1914. 7. Number of outbreaks in Renville county from January 1, 1914, to time of treatment of first herd, 135. 8. Number of hogs that died from hog cholera from January 1, 1914, to time of treatment of first herd, 1,960. 9. Total number of outbreaks of hog cholera in Renville county since treatment of first herd, 481. 10. Total number of hogs that died of hog cholera in Renville county since treatment of first herd, 3,109. 11. Number of hogs raised in Renville county in 1914 (estimated), 100,722. 12. Number of farms in Renville county on which active infection existed at time of treatment of first herd, 13. II. Results in infected herds treated exclusively with serum alone: 1. Number of herds treated, 456. 2. Number of hogs treated, 13,524. 3. Number of hogs showing high temperatures (above 104 degrees) or other

symptoms when treated, 3,246. 4. Number of hogs showing high temperatures (above 104 degrees) or other symptoms when treated that have died, 873. 5. Total number of treated hogs that have died, 1,094. III. Results in exposed herds treated exclusively with serum alone: 1. Number of herds treated, 13. 2. Number of hogs treated, 165. 3. Number of hogs showing high temperatures (above 104 degrees) or other symptoms when treated, 1. 4. Number of hogs showing high temperatures (above 104 degrees) or other symptoms when treated that have died, 0. 5. Total number of treated hogs that have died, 0. IV. Results in infected herds following the use of serum alone on pregnant sows: 1. Total number of pregnant sows treated, 72. 2. Total number of treated sows that aborted, 11. V. Miscellaneous data: 1. Number of *infected* herds treated with serum alone in which cholera later reappeared, 20. (If cholera reappeared a number of times in the same herd, each reappearance should be classed as a herd.) 2. Number of *exposed* herds treated with serum alone in which hog cholera reappeared later in the season, 1. 3. Percentage of abscesses resulting from treatment, 4 10 of 1 per cent. 4. Total number of hogs left untreated on account of advanced disease, 2,419. 5. Number of hogs left untreated on account of advanced disease that have died, 1,956. VI. Sources of infection or ways in which hog cholera is spread: 1. Exchanging labor and visiting neighbors, 104 cases, 21.62%. 2. Exposure to sick hogs in adjoining pens or pastures, 14 cases, 2.91%. 3. Infection harbored on premises, 141 cases, 29.31%. 4. Carried by dogs, 31 cases, 6.44%. 5. Infected cars and public highways, 1 case, .21%. 6. Purchase of new stock, 7 cases, 1.45%. 7. Contaminated streams, 6 cases, 1.25%. 8. Birds, 14 cases, 2.91%. 9. Hogs running at large, 6 cases, 1.25%. 10. Result of double treatment, 2 cases, .42%. 11. Visiting stockyards, 6 cases, 1.25%. 12. Indefinite sources, 149 cases, 30.98%.

Other counties are adopting the Renville county plan of controlling hog cholera. In April, 1914, President Leindecker organized a Swine Breeders' Club at Glencoe, McLeod county, which was the only factor preventing a general outbreak of cholera in that county that year. That club used forty-five thousand cubic centimeters of serum, saving 83.6 per cent of all hogs treated.

In February, 1915, Mr. Leindecker was called to Mankato to present the Renville county plan before a two days' meeting of the Southern Minnesota Seed Growers' Association. The plan was adopted by that association. The plan was similarly adopted in clubs organized by Mr. Leindecker at Litchfield, Meeker county, and Stewart, McLeod county. In the four above named places, the local agricultural teachers are serving as secretaries of the respective clubs. In the summer of 1915, the agricultural teacher at Stewart vaccinated about six hundred hogs with a sav-

ing of ninety per cent. Each member in joining a club under the Renville county plan pays a fee of two dollars. Of this sum, fifty cents goes toward the running expenses of the club and one dollar and fifty cents is placed in a revolving fund for the purchase of serum. Serum is kept on hand at the trading points of members. If a member's hogs become sick with cholera or are exposed to the disease, the member goes to the secretary of the club for serum, paying cost price for it.

Accomplishments of the association:

Fourteen local farmers' organizations supplementing the work of the Swine Breeders' Association in the county have been formed. This number includes two stock shipping associations.

Two University Weeks were conducted by the Swine Breeders' Association in 1914 and again in 1915. These programs were given in the towns of Bird Island and Sacred Heart. The profits from these enterprises have been placed in a fund to be used for the benefit of the entire county. When the Bureau of Animal Industry discontinues its work in the county, this money will be spent for a supply of serum, to be kept on hand against cholera outbreaks.

In the fall of 1914, a movement to build a creamery in Bird Island was launched in a Swine Breeders' meeting. This movement bore fruit in the fall of 1915, when a modern creamery was erected in Bird Island by a coöperative association formed for that purpose.

When the association was organized, it was the natural desire of the farmers to find a "cure" for cholera. Now it is known that there is no "cure." But the work of the association has demonstrated and is demonstrating, here and in other counties, that there are successful methods of controlling the disease. The principal elements in this control are: Organization, Education, Sanitation and Vaccination. These elements are of importance in the order named. The swine industry of Renville county has been greatly benefited, and the way has been opened for a great saving to be made in the raising of swine in the state and nation, forestalling the great losses that are now incurred each year from cholera.

Record of the association's achievements:

The great risks involved in raising hogs in Renville county have been eliminated. This is the experience of E. J. Butler, for many years a prominent citizen of Martinsburg township. The first time cholera was epidemic in the county, Mr. Butler lost thirty-eight hogs, saving only one. In the epidemic of 1908, he lost eighty-three, saving eighteen. When the epidemic of 1914 reached Martinsburg, Mr. Butler had eighty-one hogs on hand. Cholera appeared in his herd. The government veterinarians were called. One hog was killed to make a positive diagnosis of

the disease. Five more were too sick to treat with serum. Seventy-five were vaccinated. All of the five too sick to treat died. All of the seventy-five treated were saved.

An annual sale of pure-bred hogs has been instituted. These sales greatly encourage the raising of pure-bred hogs in the county. In 1913, not a hog was shown at the county fair on account of the cholera epidemic. In 1914, one hundred and twenty hogs were shown, all pure-bred, and fifty were sold. Among those making a specialty of pure-bred Duroc-Jerseys the past few years are: E. J. Wilson and H. S. Hanson of Renville, F. H. Manderfeld of Olivia, and Porter Bros., R. V. Frakes, Jos. Kienholz, Ed Kienholz, John S. Johnson, John Boyland, A. Ziller and Jos. Ziller of Bird Island. Breeders of the Chester White hogs are: O'Connor Bros. of Renville, G. I. Pregler of Morton, H. W. Leindecker and H. J. Broderius, Jr., of Bird Island, F. Hagermeister of Hector, and Elwin Borden of Buffalo Lake. Well-known breeders of Poland Chinas are C. F. Gummert and Gustav Grabow of Renville, Heins Bros. of Olivia, and Heikka Bros. of Franklin. Wright McEwen of Buffalo Lake is the leading Berkshire breeder of Renville county.

These are the suggestions coming from Renville county's experience in controlling cholera. They are adopted as rules for guidance in all counties accepting Renville county's plan:

Efficient hog cholera control depends on four factors, namely: (1) Organization, (2) Education, (3) Sanitation and (4) Vaccination. If we have organization, it is easier to spread a knowledge of necessary sanitary and preventive measures. This lessens the amount of serum required. By organization, the serum that has to be used can be obtained of guaranteed quality at a fair price, and it can be administered efficiently.

A few *don't's* applicable on farms where hogs are kept:

1. Don't vaccinate unless there is cholera in your herd, or unless your hogs have been dangerously exposed.

2. Don't waste a moment before notifying the Secretary of your club when your hogs are sick.

3. Don't vaccinate hogs intended for market that weigh 175 pounds or more. It is not a good business proposition. Ship them.

4. Don't violate the regulations of the Live Stock Sanitary Board. Get a copy of the Sanitary Board's rules from your local agricultural teacher or County Agent.

5. Don't feed carbolic acid or lye to hogs. It does them no good. You would not want to eat such things yourself.

6. Don't endanger your neighbor's hogs by needless visiting and exchanging work when you have cholera on your premises.

7. Don't leave dead carcasses about to afford opportunity for the spread of disease. Burning is better than burying.

8. Shoot useless dogs and pigeons.

9. Don't use any serum except that furnished by the State Agricultural College or serum known to be reliable. If you are in doubt, ask the Secretary of the Renville County Swine Breeders' Association (Address, Bird Island, Minnesota) for a list of reliable firms manufacturing serum.

10. Don't use double vaccination unless you are taking a herd of hogs out on the show circuit. Other occasions where double vaccination is justifiable are seldom found. Get the approval of the Swine Breeders' Association before double vaccinating.

11. Don't buy the so-called "cholera cures" so often sold by fakers through the country. The only known preventive for cholera is serum prepared from the blood of a specially treated hog.

12. Don't take everybody's advice when you get sickness in your herd of hogs, if you can get expert advice from people that have made a study of cholera.

13. Don't forget that organization is necessary to handle a cholera outbreak efficiently. Organization is the first step toward controlling the disease and it may lead to eradication.

14. Do you have an agricultural department in your local schools? If you don't, get one. Most of the agricultural teacher's salary will be paid by the state. He is the logical man for Secretary. The agricultural teacher is paid by the state and by the school district to do such work. You would never get better returns from any man than you would if you used him for Secretary. Such a plan has been tried with success and satisfaction to all parties concerned.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Advantages—Climate—Drainage—Rotation of Crops—Live Stock—Educational Work—County Agent—Farm Bureau—Shipping Associations—Crops—Government Report—Assessment Statistics—Early Drawbacks—By William E. Morris.

Renville County is situated on the northern bank of the Minnesota river, in the central portion of the state. It is about 75 miles from the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, with which it is connected by the C. M. & St. P. and the M. & St. L. railroads, which traverse the northern and southern portions of the county.

The area of the county is 981.31 square miles, 621,650 acres is land divided into 2,871 farms. The population is about 24,000. The total assessed valuation of Renville county is approximately \$18,000,000.

The agriculture of any section is controlled to a great extent by its climate. The main factors which limit the growth of crops are temperature, rainfall and the amount of sunshine. In Renville county these elements are so favorable that a majority of the crops common to the temperate zone may be successfully grown and a failure in the important crops is unknown.

Rainfall is an important factor for most crops, because the amount of water in the soil at the critical period of development of the plant is necessary to produce a large crop. The length of the growing season is also very important and probably no other factor from the standpoint of the farmer should be given more consideration.

Renville county is favored with these factors which help to make successful production of crops. The following statistics on the climatic conditions of the county are from the reports of the United States Department of Agriculture Weather Bureau from observations taken at Bird Island over a period of twenty-two years.

Average precipitation (rainfall), 24.57 inches; average precipitation (snowfall), 25.8 inches; highest temperature recorded, 105 degrees; lowest temperature recorded, —38 degrees; prevailing wind direction, northwest; average date of first killing frost in autumn, September 25; average date of last killing frost in spring, May 9; earliest date of killing frost in autumn, September 9; latest date of killing frost in spring, June 7; elevation of county above sea level, 1,000 feet.

The distribution of the rainfall is particularly favorable to agriculture, being heaviest during the crop season and ample for

the full development of crops. The most rainfall from the reports is shown to be in the months of April, May, June, July and August. The average date of the last killing frost in the spring and the first in autumn are May 9 and September 25, respectively. This gives an average length of growing season of 139 days which is ample for the growing of corn.

The soil of Renville county is very uniform, being a black clay loam with a yellow clay subsoil carrying an abundance of lime. On account of the very high content of nitrogen and organic matter in the surface soil and the abundance of lime in the subsoil, it is properly regarded as an unusually fertile type. There are many shallow depressions in which the water at present remains until late in the season and which are at present used for meadows. When these are drained they will soon become as productive as the remainder of the land. Technically the soil is a till or boulder clay brought from the northwest during the last advance of the continental ice sheet.

The surface is undulating prairie interspersed with frequent domestic groves of hardwood timber as well as wild timber along the streams.

Most of the early settlers located along the Minnesota river or in the ravines of the streams flowing into that river, though a few came down from the "Big Woods" and located in Boon Lake and Preston Lake. Some of the settlers came up the river in boats. Others had made their way from Fort Snelling, St. Paul, or St. Peter and New Ulm. Through the dense forests, across the sweeping prairie, or over a winding trail they had made their way, fording brooks, passing through swamps, cutting away fallen trees, and swimming rivers until they reached their chosen location.

The parts of Minnesota over which the last continental ice sheet passed is characterized by many depressions which hold water until late in the season, making in some sections considerable wet areas. Renville county lies within this portion of the state. Here are found these conditions, though not to the extent that is found elsewhere. The farmers and officials of the county realize the value of this land once drainage is provided and are making the necessary effort to secure this. Up to the present time \$462,000 have been spent in county and judicial ditches, while drainage projects which will involve the construction of 600 miles of ditch and afford outlets for six townships are either under way or being petitioned for. These new projects will cost approximately \$1,400,000, and will bring the total number of districts up to sixty-nine county and eighteen judicial ditches. In the new system tile is being used where the cost will permit, wherever such large tile is required as to make the cost too great, the open ditch is put in. These ditches provide outlet only for

the farms within their territory. Complete drainage can then be provided for later by private systems.

Of the old open ditch systems in the county, many are still operating in a satisfactory manner. Some are found, however, which were either not properly constructed in the first place, or have been made useless by filling in or injury to the ditch. Portions of the old systems have also been incorporated into new systems so that some of these have lost their identity. The new systems will prove much more satisfactory than the old as tile is used wherever possible. An ideal system of drainage is adequate, permanent, not a hindrance to cultivation, and uses the least possible land. The open ditch system does not fulfill the requirements. Valuable land is occupied and the ditches become filled, requiring much time and money to keep in condition. The money being spent now in the county for drainage purposes should prove to be a very paying investment as they fulfill the requirements. Besides the making of more land available for cultivation, roads are also being improved by these systems.

The county drains naturally in two directions, the largest portion to the Minnesota river through the several creeks in the county, the other portion, the north central and east end through Buffalo creek into the Crow river.

The farmers of Renville county are beginning to realize fully that a one-crop system of farming means the running down of the soil with a minimum return per acre. In the past wheat was the only crop raised. Corn is gradually taking the place of the wheat field so that Renville county is now recognized as distinctly in the corn belt both in the quantity and quality of the corn raised.

The development of the corn industry has resulted in greater farm profits and an increase in land values. The breeding of seed corn has been emphasized along with the growing of corn for feed. Renville county seed corn is shipped in considerable quantities to surrounding counties. Of the seed corn breeders of the county, E. G. Enestvedt with his Minnesota 13, and Jos. Keimholz with his Silver King have attracted the most attention. There are many other breeders with very excellent corn of these two varieties which are the most popular varieties in the county. Many farmers have their own seedcorn breeding plots for their individual use. These conditions are bound to give the county a state wide reputation for good seed corn in a short time. In fact, this year corn from Renville county was the only new corn exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair.

Corn, wheat, oats and barley are the predominating crops, while flax and buckwheat are grown to a lesser degree. Timothy, clover, red top, and alfalfa grow abundantly and yield large crops. Sugar beets have been grown extensively around Ren-

ville, Sacred Heart and Olivia, showing that soil and climate are adapted to this crop. The crop acreages for 1914 were: Corn, 94,173; wheat, 98,858; rye, 2,280; oats, 60,066; barley, 41,728; flax, 8,461; potatoes, 1,850, and hay, 89,039. Fruit is also rapidly becoming an important crop.

The county is blessed with two good nurserys, Dunsmore's at Olivia, and Flagstad's at Sacred Heart, which supply the farmers with good home grown nursery stock. Operating in connection with these nurserys, are commercial orchards which with G. A. Anderson's Glendale Fruit Farm and Pat O'Brien's Orchards at Renville are possibly the largest orchards in the county. All of which do business on a commercial scale.

Renville county soil is well adapted to the growing of clover and alfalfa. Of this fact the farmers have taken advantage. Only a few years ago clover was considered an impossible crop. Now most farmers consider it a very necessary step in their cropping systems. In fact, the plant has become so common and well adapted to the county that road sides, fence rows, and such places abound with it. This means the keeping up of soil fertility with increased crop yields. As to alfalfa, in 1913 the acreage amounted to between 75 and 100 acres. This has been increased until in 1915 there are over 1,500 acres in the county.

Of the pioneer alfalfa growers probably E. O. Oppegaard of Hawk Creek is the oldest successful large scale grower. On this farm there are at present fields of Montana and Grimm alfalfa of ten and fifteen years standing. It was seed from the latter field which won first prize at the Corn and Alfalfa Exposition at Ortonville in 1915. Chas. Kenning, Bird Island, is also a pioneer with this crop. The largest acreages in the county are on the farms of A. O. Skrukud and Ed. O'Connor, both of Sacred Heart, and Fred Pfeiffer of Morton. On all of these farms more than 40 acres of the crop are growing at the present time. Many of the growers this year have saved their second crop for seed, so for the first time in the history of the county a quantity of home-grown alfalfa seed will be for sale.

Each year also sees an increase in the number of live stock, both beef and dairy cattle, and hogs. In 1914 there were 1,900 horses, 35,000 cattle, 21,000 sheep and 100,000 hogs. The swine industry has been especially favored by the Government work on hog cholera control. From May 8, 1914, when the work commenced, to December 31, 1914, 13,689 hogs were vaccinated and 91 per cent were saved. Estimated at \$10.00 a head this means a saving of \$124,570. From January 1, 1915, to October 31, 1915, 2,813 hogs were vaccinated and 93 per cent saved. The work as carried on has been worth at least \$20.00 to the farmer for every dollar spent. This hog cholera control work has been under the direction of Dr. G. S. Weaver, of the U. S. Department of Agri-

culture, assisted by three veterinary inspectors. The State Live Stock Sanitary Board has looked after the enforcement of sanitary and quarantine measures. This work has been done by Dr. H. Evenson. The Minnesota State Agricultural College has conducted the organization of the county and the necessary educational work on hog cholera control. For this work their representative, W. E. Morris, is the county agent for Renville county.

The greater interest in the cattle industry is shown by the increase in the number of silos erected this year. At present there are 138 silos in the county. Thirty-seven of these have been built this year, which is an increase of nearly 27 per cent.

The first silo in the county, a wood stave, was built 11 years ago by George Forsyth of Franklin. This silo is still in good condition after continuous use. Ensilage has been fed to beef as well as dairy cattle in the county. Barnard & Daly of Renville have topped the market at South St. Paul twice in the last two years with baby beef, which were fattened with silage as the principal roughage. John Kern of Olivia, another big feeder, turns off two to four ears of cattle each year, fed heavily on corn silage. Many other farmers are doing the same thing on a smaller degree. The townships having the most silos are Palmyra, eighteen, and Camp, thirteen. Wood stave silos predominate with solid concrete, panel, cement panel and cement block comprising the remainder. More silos, corn, and clover means more live stock, better cropping systems, increase in soil fertility, and maximum returns per acre. The increased interest in dairying is shown by the new creameries being built and the old ones in operation. Seven old coöperative creameries are in operation at the following places: Olivia, Brookfield, Franklin, Fairfax, Eddsville, Melville, and Lakeside, and the Bird Island and Hector farmers are now building new ones. Private creameries take care of the cream at Buffalo Lake, Hector, Dambe, Renville and Sacred Heart.

Pure bred live stock is growing in favor. Numerous herds of pure bred cattle may be found in the county. Holsteins and Short Horns predominate, although pure bred herds of Aberdeen Angus, Hereford, Jersey and Guernsey are present. Pure bred hogs are raised extensively while a few farmers breed pure bred horses.

Renville county ranks first in the poultry industry. The 1914 census shows the total number to be 292,788. There are many fanciers in the county and each year the Renville County Poultry Association holds a show, which ranks with the best in the state. Birds of high quality of practically every breed found at ordinary shows are exhibited here. In the production of eggs Renville county ranks highest in the state.

For a comparatively new county the farm improvements in the county are good. Some sections are remarkably built up.

Fine house and barns with good other buildings show the prosperity and advancement of the county. Furnace heat, electric or gas light for both house and barn, and water systems are not infrequent. Renville county farmers have early recognized the desirability of good groves and wind breaks with which most farms are now well provided.

The business men and farmers work together showing community spirit. O'Connor Bros.' State Bank of Renville has loaned money without interest for the building of silos. The same bank and the Olivia State Bank each offered free money for community live stock buying. The People's Bank of Olivia annually holds a corn show at which very liberal premiums are paid. Every banker in the county, in fact, is working in a similar manner such as assistance in hog cholera control work, loaning money on cattle, etc.

The county has taken advantage of the aid given by the state and the United States to secure the general adoption of the best agricultural practices. At the present time five high schools in the county employ agriculturists whose duties are to teach agriculture in the school and to carry on extension work among the farmers. The latter consists of surveying wet lands for drainage, testing seed corn, pruning orchards, and being of any similar service. The high schools employing such men are Renville, Olivia, Bird Island, Hector and Fairfax.

An agricultural agent is also employed by the county. The largest portion of the funds necessary for the maintenance of such an office is provided by the state and U. S. Government. This office was opened first in Renville county in August, 1913, with W. E. Morris, as county agent. On August 30 the same year a Farm Bureau was organized. The purpose of this organization is the bringing of farmers together for mutual coöperation who wish to investigate the fundamental problems that are involved in production on their farms. The county agent, working with this Bureau and its members, may be of assistance in investigating these problems and demonstrating accepted agricultural practices.

One feature of the work in this county has been the introduction of alfalfa. Prior to 1914 less than 100 acres of alfalfa were growing in the county. The Farm Bureau secured a quantity of seed at a reasonable price which was distributed to farmers at cost. Through these efforts the acreage of alfalfa has increased to about 1,500 acres. Most fields are doing well and demonstrating thoroughly the value of the crop.

Organization is an important part of Farm Bureau work. Since the work started in Renville county, five live stock shipping associations have been organized. This has meant a considerable financial saving to the members, as their stock has brought them actually what it was sold for, minus the expense of marketing.

Sixteen farmers' clubs have been organized in the county. Most of these are very active and improving themselves, their homes, and their community by associating, exchanging ideas and working together.

Numerous demonstrations have been carried on, such as treatment of seed grains for smut, spraying orchards, pure seed, seed corn selection, selection of breeding stock, farm management, drainage, silos, and others. The work now is meeting with favor and should develop more as time goes on.

The future of the county, agriculturally speaking, is bright. Possibly there is no section in the state which is as uniform in soil conditions and topography as this county.

The soil, typical of western Minnesota, is shown by analysis to be one of the richest in the world. This, combined with the existing climatic conditions, which are plenty of rainfall and sunshine and a long growing season, offer wonderful advantages for diversified farming, and situated as it is, in close proximity to the good markets of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and with ten live towns within its borders, this industry should develop to the fullest extent. Diversified farming with a good system of crop rotation with corn, clover, alfalfa and live stock is bound to increase with the advantages offered in the county. These mean the upkeep of soil fertility, maximum crop yields, and prosperous, contented communities.

Renville county is acknowledged as being among the best and most prosperous stock-raising and agricultural counties in Minnesota. Its people are wideawake and keep step with the progressive march of the times in all that pertains to a civilization of happiness, industry and culture. The first permanent settlers of the county were farmers, and their object in coming was to till the soil.

All had many lessons to learn. Many of the pioneers were from foreign countries, and all the conditions were new. Some were farmers from the eastern states, and they, too, found circumstances absolutely changed. Some were men who had previously been engaged in other occupations, but who saw in the opening of Minnesota an opportunity to secure a farm, together with the health and longevity that come from outdoor life. All of them, regardless of their previous circumstances, were able and willing to work; they had industry and courage and they were determined to win.

In the face of obstacles of which they had previously no knowledge they started to carve their fortunes in the wilderness. The country was new, there was no alternative but that success must be won from the soil, which was their only wealth and their only help. There were among the early comers a few money-lenders, a few speculators and a few traders, but everyone else,

even the lawyers, the doctors and the ministers, must wrest their living from the earth. And in spite of all the obstacles and inconveniences, and notwithstanding the fact that in the face of many disasters hundreds of the pioneers left the county, those who stayed, and those who have come in since, have met with unbounded success. Nor is the end yet reached, for the county has in its agricultural and dairying resources a mine of wealth yet undeveloped, which, when the years roll on, will grow more and more valuable as the people become, through scientific methods, more and more able to utilize it.

The farms of Renville county are similar to the farms of any other county having a rich soil. It has its good farms and its poor farms. Or, better stated, it has its good farmers and its poor farmers. Agriculture, like every other trade or profession, has its successes and its failures, but perhaps not as many complete failures.

The high altitude gives to Renville county an ideal climate. Its mean temperature for summer is 70 degrees, the same as middle Illinois, Ohio, and southern Pennsylvania. The extreme heat that is felt in these states is here tempered by the breezes of the elevated plateau. Its higher latitude gives two hours more of sunshine than at Cincinnati. This, with an abundance of rainfall, 26.36 inches annually, on a rich soil, accounts for the rapid and vigorous growth of crops and their early maturity. There is a uniformity of temperature during the winter season in southern Minnesota, with bright sunshine, dry atmosphere, good sleighing and infrequent thaws that make life a pleasure in this bracing, healthy climate.

There was a time in Renville county when, like all new lands, the first consideration was to build good barns for the housing of the flocks and herds, and the home was the most inconspicuous object in the landscape. As the farmers prospered, the log house disappeared, and now there are few log houses in the entire county. Now the farmer's house vies with the city residence, and has many of the modern conveniences. Where electric light and power cannot be secured, gasoline engines furnish power, and a number of farm houses are lighted by their own gas plants. By the use of elevated tanks in the house or barn, or pneumatic tanks in cellars, farm houses often have all the sanitary conveniences of a house in town. Farmers realize the value of keeping their property in the best of shape. Houses and barns are well painted, lawns are carefully kept and flower gardens show that the people recognize that the things which beautify add a value to life as well as to property.

The rural telephone reaches practically every farm house, which, with rural mail delivery and the newspapers, places the farmer in close touch with the great markets and with the cur-

rent of affairs of the outside world. There is no longer any isolation such as existed in the early days when pioneering meant privation; no longer any need for the denial of many of the luxuries as well as the comforts of life. The farmer can have his daily newspaper and his daily market reports; he can have the advantage of the circulating library, and his table can be supplied with whatever the village or city market may have to offer. The changes of the half-century have been more marked in scarcely any direction than in the conditions which surround life on the farm. The plodding ox which did the field and farm work has disappeared; the gang plow, the mower, the seeder, the harvester and the steam thresher are doing the work so laboriously and imperfectly done by the scythe, the cradle, the hand-sower, the flail and the horse-power thresher. The buggy, the carriage and now the automobile are almost universal among the conveniences of the farm, while the sewing machine, the organ and the piano are familiar objects in the inner life of the farm home. The future doubtless holds still more in the way of conveniences and comforts, but it can give nothing beyond what the great service the farmer has rendered and is rendering the country in the way of its development merits. There cannot but be deep regret, however much it is in the nature of things, that so few of those who bore the heat and burden of the day in the years of beginnings, have survived to enjoy the fruits which their labors produced. "Their epitaphs are writ in furrows

"Deep and wide
The wheels of progress have passed on:
The silent pioneer is gone.
His ghost is moving down the trees,
And now we push the memories
Of bluff, bold men who dared and died
In foremost battle, quite aside."

GOVERNMENT REPORT.

The following report of Renville county agriculture, issued in connection with the thirteenth census of the United States, speaks for itself in regard to the present-day agricultural conditions in the county:

Population, 23,123 (in 1900, 23,693).

Number of all farms, 2,871 (in 1900, 3,013).

Color and nativity of all farmers. Native whites, 1,331; foreign born whites, 1,540.

Number of farms classified by size: Under three acres, 0; from three to nine acres, 31; from ten to nineteen acres, 14; from twenty to forty-nine acres, 51; from fifty to ninety-nine acres, 219; from 100 to 174 acres, 1,113; from 175 to 259 acres, 805;

from 260 to 499 acres, 578; from 500 to 999 acres, 59; 1,000 acres and over, 1.

Land and Farm Areas. Approximate land area, 625,920 acres. Land in farms, 589,798. (Land in farms in 1900, 584,659 acres.) Improved land in farms, 513,520 acres. Improved land in farms in 1900, 500,199 acres. Woodland in farms, 19,150 acres. Other unimproved land in farms, 57,128 acres. Per cent of the whole county in farms, 94.2 per cent. Per cent of farm land improved, 87.1 per cent. Average acres to each farm, 205.4 acres. Average improved acres to each farm, 178.9 acres.

Value of Farm Property. All farm property, \$33,685,584. (In 1900 the value was \$18,539,120.) The percentage of increase in farm value in ten years was 81.7 per cent. Value of land alone, \$23,798,173. (The value of land alone in 1900 was \$13,563,070.) Value of buildings alone, \$5,055,270. (\$2,358,530 in 1900.) Value of implements and machinery, \$1,271,143. (\$709,490 in 1900.) Value of domestic animals, poultry and bees, \$3,560,998. (\$1,908,030 in 1900.) Per cent of value of all property in land, 70.6 per cent. Per cent of value of all property in buildings, 15.0 per cent. Per cent of value of all property in implements and machinery, 3.8 per cent. Per cent of value in domestic animals, poultry and bees, 10.6 per cent.

Average Values. Average value of all property per farm, \$11,733. Average value of land and buildings per farm, \$10,050. Average value of land per acre, \$40.89. (\$23.20 in 1900.)

Domestic Animals on Farms and Ranges. Farmers reporting domestic animals, 2,842. Value of domestic animals, \$3,436,289.

Cattle. Total number, 40,832. Dairy cows, 19,065. Other cows, 3,529. Calves, 6,946. Yearling heifers, 5,979. Yearling steers and bulls, 3,287. Other steers and bulls, 2,026. Total value, \$815,634.

Horses. Total number, 18,256. Mature horses, 16,256. Yearling colts, 1,592. Spring colts, 638. Total value, \$2,199,324.

Mules. Total number, 106. Mature mules, 91. Yearling colts, 12. Spring colts, 3. Total value, \$12,165.

Asses and Burros. Total number, 3. Total value, \$115.

Swine. Total number, 42,677. Mature hogs, 23,199. Spring pigs, 19,478. Value, \$377,515.

Sheep. Total number, 7,892. Rams, ewes, wethers, 5,585. Spring lambs, 2,307. Value, \$31,502.

Goats. Number, 12. Value, \$34.

Poultry and Bees. Poultry of all kinds, 292,788. Value, \$121,448. Number of colonies of bees, 783. Value, \$3,261.

Farms operated by owners, 2,015. (2,344 in 1900.) Per cent of all farms in the county operated by owners, 70.2 per cent. (77.8 per cent in 1900.)

Land in farms operated by owners, 413,607 acres. Improved land in farms operated by owners, 362,037. Value of lands and buildings in farms operated by owners, \$20,413,555.

Degree of Ownership. Number of farms operated by owners, consisting of owned lands only, 1,671. Number of farms operated by owners which also include with the owned land, some hired land, 344. Of the men in the county owning and operating their own farms, 813 are native born Americans and 1,202 are foreign born.

Farms Operated by Tenants. Number of farms operated by tenants, 833. (652 in 1900.) Of all the farms in the county, 29.0 per cent are operated by tenants. (21.6 in 1900.)

Land in rented farms, 168,647 acres. Improved land in rented farms, 145,200 acres. Value of land and buildings in rented farms, \$8,032,048.

Form of Tenancy. Share tenants, 559. Share-cash tenants, 34. Cash tenants, 79. Tenure not specified, 161. Of the people renting farms in the county, 500 are native born Americans, and 333 are foreign born.

Farms Operated by Managers. Number of farms operated by managers, 23. (17 in 1900.) Land in farms operated by managers, 7,544 acres. Improved lands in farms operated by managers, 6,283. Value of land and buildings in farms operated by managers, \$407,840.

Mortgage Debt Report of Farms Operated by Their Owners. Number free from mortgage debt, 1,012. Number with mortgage debt, 986. Number on which no mortgage report was made, 17. Mortgage debt report of farms consisting of owned land only. Number reporting debt and amount, 745. Value of their land and buildings, \$7,506,707. Amount of mortgage debt, \$1,954,084. Per cent of value of land and buildings mortgaged, 26.0 per cent.

Farm Expenses. For labor. Number of farms from which reports were obtained, 2,118. Cash expended for labor on these farms, \$394,666. Rent and board furnished for labor, \$111,667.

For Feed. Number of farms reported on this question, 575. Amount expended, \$38,436.

Principal Crops. Corn, 60,368 acres; bushels, 2,124,394. Common winter wheat, 2,348 acres; bushels, 41,355. Common spring wheat, 122,187 acres; 2,712,665 bushels. Durum or macaroni wheat, 267 acres; bushels, 4,305. Barley, 36,286 acres; bushels, 864,210. Rye, 3,031 acres; 57,848 bushels. Flaxseed, 8,461 acres; bushels, 80,541. Timothy seeds, 386 acres; 1,337 bushels. Potatoes, 1,762; bushels, 177,492. Oats, 60,060 acres; 2,319,684 bushels.

Hay and Forage. Total, 80,945 acres; tons, 127,692. Timothy alone, 8,247 acres; tons, 15,748. Timothy and clover mixed, 5,957 acres, tons, 11,289. Other tame or cultivated grass, exclusive of clover alone and alfalfa, 2,922 acres; tons, 3,893. Wild or prairie

grass, 59,794 acres; tons, 87,880. All other hay and forage, 4,025; tons, 8,882.

ASSESSMENT ROLLS.

The assessment rolls of Renville county for 1915 are most interesting, as they tell in unadorned figures the agricultural conditions that exist in Renville county at the present time.

Horses, Mules and Asses. Under one year old, 1,044; one year old and under two years, 1,855; two years old and under three years, 1,640; three years old and over, 16,494; stallions, fine bred mares and race horses, 68.

Cattle. Under one year old, 11,320; one year old and under two years, 9,394; two years old and under three years, 5,683; cows, 17,276; bulls, 964; all other cattle three years old and over, 509.

Sheep, 2,354. Swine, 29,590.

Horses. There are 68 stallions, fine bred mares and race horses in the county. They are distributed as follows: Bandon, 2; Birch Cooley, 1; Beaver Falls, 1; Bird Island township, 1; Bird Island village, 1; Boon Lake, 3; Brookfield, 1; Cairo, 1; Crooks, 1; Danube, 3; Emmet, 1; Ericsen, 3; Franklin, 2; Flora, 4; Hawk Creek, 5; Hector township, 1; Hector village, 1; Henryville, 1; Martinsburg, 1; Melville, 4; Morton, 4; Norfolk, 2; Olivia, 4; Palmyra, 8; Renville, 1; Sacred Heart township, 1; Troy, 1; Wang, 2; Winfield, 5; Wellington, 2.

Dogs, 2,561.

There are 3,407 sewing machines. The largest number in a city or village is in Olivia, where there are 174. The smallest number is 43, in Danube. The largest number in a township is in Sacred Heart, where there are 112. The smallest number, 42, is in Crooks. There are 4,443 watches and clocks assessed.

The county has 907 pianos. Renville leads among the villages with 79. Among the townships, Brookfield leads with 28. The smallest number is 3, the number owned in Camp and Henryville each.

There are 7,099 wagons, carriages and sleighs. The highest number is in Henryville township, where there are 433.

No less than 1,127 automobiles are found in the county.

VILLAGES.

Buffalo Lake. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 3; one year old and under two years, 2; two years old and under three years, 1; three years old and over, 72. Cattle, under one year, 3; one year and under two years, 5; cows, 39. Swine, 112. Number of dogs, 20. Automobiles, 34; motoreycles and bicycles, 1.

Danube. Horses, mules and asses. Three years old and over,

40. Cattle, under one year, 9; one year and under two years, 6; two years and under three years, 2; cows, 29; bulls, 1. Swine, 30. Number of dogs, 2. Automobiles, 13.

Bird Island. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 10; one year old and under two years, 15; two years old and under three years, 12; three years old and over, 166. Cattle, under one year, 44; one year and under two years, 66; two years and under three years, 18; cows, 114; bulls, 1. Sheep, 2. Swine, 187. Number of dogs, 54. Automobiles, 43; motoreycles and bicycles, 1.

Fairfax. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 2; one year old and under two years, 6; two years old and under three years, 3; three years old and over, 84. Cattle, under one year, 4; one year and under two years, 4; two years old and under three years, 3; cows, 53. Swine, 22. Number of dogs, 40. Automobiles, 64; motoreycles and bicycles, 10.

Franklin. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 11; one year old and under two years, 12; two years old and under three years, 7; three years old and over, 91. Cattle, under one year, 57; one year and under two years, 42; two years and under three years, 24; cows, 101; bulls, 6. Sheep, —. Swine, 125. Number of dogs, 28. Automobiles, 41; motoreycles and bicycles, 3.

Hector. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 9; one year old and under two years, 1; two years old and under three years, 3; three years old and over, 128. Cattle, under one year, 20; one year and under two years, 38; two years and under three years, 29; cows, 75; bulls, 2. Sheep, 4. Swine, 45. Number of dogs, 46. Automobiles, 47; motoreycles and bicycles, 12.

Morton. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 4; one year old and under two years, 10; two years old and under three years, 13; three years old and over, 112. Cattle, under one year, 36; one year and under two years, 114; two years and under three years, 57; cows, 108; bulls, 1; all other cattle three years old and over, 64. Sheep, 28. Swine, 591. Number of dogs, 32. Automobiles, 43; motoreycles and bicycles, 2.

Olivia. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 1; one year old and under two years, 5; two years old and under three years, 2; three years old and over, 142. Cattle, one year and under two years, 15; two years and under three years, 14; cows, 84; bulls, 2; all other cattle three years old and over, 5. Swine, 42. Number of dogs, 30. Automobiles, 76; motoreycles and bicycles, 3.

Renville. Horses, mules and asses. One year old and under two years, 7; two years old and under three years, 8; three years old and over, 134. Cattle, one year and under two years, 6; two years and under three years, 2; cows, 75; bulls, 1. Sheep,

6. Swine, 162. Number of dogs, 25. Automobiles 63; motorcycles and bicycles, 4.

Sacred Heart. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 2; two years old and under three years, 1; three years old and over, 58. Cattle under one year, 1; two years old and under three years, 3; cows, 56. Swine, 12. Dogs, 12. Automobiles, 44; motorcycles and bicycles, 4.

TOWNSHIPS.

Bandon. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 31; one year old and under two years, 84; two years old and under three years, 54; three years old and over, 616. Cattle, under one year, 528; one year old and under two years, 350; two years old and under three years, 197; cows, 688; bulls, 43; all other cattle three years old and over, 20. Sheep, 20. Swine, 749. Dogs, 18. Automobiles, 25; motorcycles and bicycles, 10.

Birch Cooley. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 12; one year old and under two years, 75; two years old and under three years, 69; three years old and over, 542. Cattle, under one year, 219; one year and under two years, 335; two years and under three years, 227; cows, 480; bulls, 15; all other cattle three years old and over, 37. Sheep, 102. Swine, 944. Number of dogs, 57. Automobiles, 26.

Beaver Falls. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 22; one year old and under two years, 46; two years old and under three years, 50; three years old and over, 457. Cattle, under one year, 349; one year and under two years, 300; two years and under three years, 248; cows, 474; bulls, 3. Sheep, 167. Swine, 619. Number of dogs, 63. Automobiles, 36.

Bird Island. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 28; one year old and under two years, 67; two years old and under three years, 47; three years old and over, 437. Cattle, under one year, 425; one year old and under two years, 294; two years old and under three years, 140; cows, 479; bulls, 28; all other cattle three years old and over, 13. Sheep, 7. Swine, 727. Dogs, 112. Automobiles, 8; motorcycles and bicycles, 2.

Boon Lake. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 68; one year old and under two years, 91; two years old and under three years, 79; three years old and over, 624. Cattle, under one year, 409; one year and under two years, 394; two years and under three years, 348; cows, 1,003; bulls, 77. Sheep, 2. Swine, 187. Number of dogs, 54. Automobiles, 24; motorcycles and bicycles, 4.

Brookfield. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 53; one year old and under two years, 68; two years old and under three years, 52; three years old and over, 473. Cattle, un-

der one year, 408; one year old and under two years, 502; two years old and under three years, 189; cows, 542; bulls, 24. Sheep, 189. Swine, 1,747. Dogs, 81. Automobiles, 21; motoreycles and bicycles, 2.

Cairo. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 28; one year old and under two years, 91; two years old and under three years, 86; three years old and over, 519. Cattle, under one year, 320; one year old and under two years, 314; two years old and under three years, 214; cows, 579; bulls, 29. Sheep, 102. Swine, 350. Dogs, 97. Automobiles, 33; motoreycles and bicycles, 6.

Crooks. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 53; one year old and under two years, 55; two years old and under three years, 60; three years old and over, 600. Cattle, under one year, 517; one year old and under two years, 320; two years old and under three years, 168. Cows, 588; bulls, 22. Sheep, 51. Swine, 1,965. Dogs, 82. Automobiles, 11; motoreycles and bicycles, 3.

Camp. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 39; one year old and under two years, 56; two years old and under three years, 63; three years old and over, 516. Cattle, under one year, 536; one year old and under two years, 375; two years old and under three years, 254; cows, 628; bulls, 30; all other cattle three years old and over, 67. Sheep, 69. Swine, 695. Dogs, 28. Automobiles, 32; motoreycles and bicycles, 11.

Emmet. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 65; one year old and under two years, 83; two years old and under three years, 59; three years old and over, 569. Cattle, under one year, 480; one year old and under two years, 331; two years old and under three years, 206; cows, 520; bulls, 28. Sheep, 102. Swine, 1,319. Dogs, 81. Automobiles, 18.

Erieson. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 64; one year old and under two years, 46; two years old and under three years, 44; three years old and over, 627. Cattle, under one year, 488; one year old and under two years, 286; two years old and under three years, 120; cows, 605; bulls, 43; all other cattle three years old and over, 15. Sheep, 61. Swine, 1,570. Dogs, 103. Automobiles, 22; motoreycles and bicycles, 4.

Flora. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 48; one year old and under two years, 59; two years old and under three years, 58; three years old and over, 614. Cattle, under one year, 468; one year old and under two years, 240; two years old and under three years, 290; cows, 656; bulls, 37. Sheep, 56. Swine, 1,764. Dogs, 121. Automobiles, 35.

Hawk Creek. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 42; one year old and under two years, 46; two years old and under three years, 33; three years old and over, 513. Cattle,

under one year, 367; one year old and under two years, 225; two years old and under three years, 120; cows, 515; bulls, 42; all other cattle three years old and over, 25. Sheep, 55. Swine, 1,881. Dogs, 84. Automobiles, 35; motorcycles and bicycles, 1.

Hector. Horses, asses and mules. Under one year old, 4; one year old and under two years, 48; two years old and under three years, 51; three years old and over, 522. Cattle, under one year, 448; one year and under two years, 236; two years and under three years, 150; cows, 624; bulls, 38. Sheep, 144. Swine, 839. Number of dogs, 80. Automobiles, 19; motorcycles and bicycles, 2.

Henryville. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 86; one year old and under two years, 71; two years old and under three years, 31; three years old and over, 578. Cattle, under one year, 539; one year old and under two years, 391; two years old and under three years, 220; cows, 568; bulls, 29; all other cattle three years old and over, 9. Sheep, 13. Swine, 1,537. Dogs, 101. Automobiles, 29; motorcycles and bicycles, 5.

Kingman. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 13; one year old and under two years, 63; two years old and under three years, 70; three years old and over, 525. Cattle, under one year, 177; one year old and under two years, 261; two years old and under three years, 156; cows, 588; bulls, 37. Sheep, 10. Swine, 1,032. Dogs, 74. Automobiles, 11.

Martinsburg. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 32; one year old and under two years, 60; two years old and under three years, 57; three years old and over, 556. Cattle, under one year, 416; one year and under two years, 344; two years and under three years, 181; cows, 585; bulls, 42. Sheep, 155. Swine, 982. Number of dogs, 80. Automobiles, 25; motorcycles and bicycles, 3.

Melville. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 28; one year old and under two years, 57; two years old and under three years, 50; three years old and over, 536. Cattle, under one year, 241; one year and under two years, 276; two years and under three years, 183; cows, 620; bulls, 42; all other cattle three years old and over, 16. Sheep, 20. Swine, 687. Number of dogs, 92. Automobiles, 20; motorcycles and bicycles, 7.

Norfolk. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 21; one year old and under two years, 82; two years old and under three years, 98; three years old and over, 541. Cattle, under one year, 297; one year and under two years, 406; two years and under three years, 248; cows, 431; all other cattle three years old and over, 28. Sheep, 131. Swine, 696. Number of dogs, 85. Automobiles, 19; motorcycles and bicycles, 1.

Osceola. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 39; one year old and under two years, 59; two years old and under

three years, 38; three years old and over, 549. Cattle, under one year, 370; one year and under two years, 287; two years and under three years, 194; cows, 649; bulls, 27. Sheep, 9. Swine, 1,846. Number of dogs, 99. Automobiles, 9; motoreycles and bicycles, 11.

Palmyra. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 24; one year old and under two years, 56; two years old and under three years, 32; three years old and over, 760. Cattle, under one year, 577; one year and under two years, 393; two years and under three years, 233; cows, 741; bulls, 56; all other cattle three years old and over, 179. Sheep, 33. Swine, 2,132. Number of dogs, 50. Automobiles, 42; motoreycles and bicycles, 7.

Preston Lake. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 42; one year old and under two years, 67; two years old and under three years, 53; three years old and over, 550. Cattle, under one year, 459; one year old and under two years, 365; two years old and under three years, 243; cows, 478; bulls, 66. Sheep, 249. Swine, 1,334. Dogs, 104. Automobiles, 28; motoreycles and bicycles, 1.

Sacred Heart. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 36; one year old and under two years, 68; two years old and under three years, 74; three years old and over, 972. Cattle, under one year, 566; one year and under two years, 435; two years and under three years, 200; cows, 848; bulls, 29; all other cattle three years old and over, 5. Sheep, 68. Swine, 677. Number of dogs, 114. Automobiles, 35.

Troy. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 38; one year old and under two years, 65; two years old and under three years, 56; three years old and over, 562. Cattle, under one year, 513; one year old and under two years, 379; two years old and under three years, 212; cows, 680; bulls, 36; all other cattle three years old and over, 5. Sheep, 60. Swine, 608. Dogs, 88. Automobiles, 24.

Wang. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 23; one year old and under two years, 67; two years old and under three years, 66; three years old and over, 605. Cattle, under one year, 299; one year old and under two years, 282; two years old and under three years, 148; cows, 646; bulls, 16. Sheep, 24. Swine, 913. Dogs, 61. Automobiles, 33.

Winfield. Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 10; one year old and under two years, 77; two years old and under three years, 78; three years old and over, 582. Cattle, under one year, 388; one year and under two years, 376; two years and under three years, 189; cows, 653; bulls, 61; all other cattle three years old and over, 18. Sheep, 62. Swine, 760. Number of dogs, 99. Automobiles, 13; motoreycles and bicycles, 1.

Wellington. Horses, asses and mules. Under one year old, 53; one year old and under two years, 90; two years old and under three years, 82; three years old and over, 522. Cattle, under one year, 342; one year and under two years, 401; two years and under three years, 253; cows, 674; bulls, 50; all other cattle three years old and over, 3. Sheep, 208. Swine, 723. Number of dogs, 110. Automobiles, 26; motoreycles and bicycles, 2.

FARM NAMES.

Many of the progressive farmers in Renville county have given names to their places, thus adding to their value and winning distinctiveness for their products. Some have taken advantage of the opportunity given them by law to register their names with the register of deeds at the court house. Those thus registered at the present time are:

Timothy M. Keefe, "Birch Coulee Falls Farm," N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 29, town of Birch Cooley (113-34), July 27, 1909.

Enoch O. Oppegard, owner of "Pleasant View Farm," located in sections 13 and 24, town of Hawk Creek (115, 38), August 25, 1909.

Timothy Warner, owner of "Pleasant Side Farm," located in sections 29 and 32, town of Emmett (115, 36), August 7, 1909.

John E. Meng, owner of "Pleasant Hill Farm," located in northeast quarter of section 32, town of Bird Island (115, 34), September 20, 1909.

Martin Henert, owner of "Early Dawn Farm," located on section 20, town of Kingman (116, 34), September 20, 1909.

James H. Rich, owner of "Pine Hill Farm," located on section 20, town of Boon Lake (116, 31), September 21, 1909.

Bernard A. Tersteeg, owner of "Fairview Farm," located on northeast quarter of section 1, town of Henryville (114, 35), October 30, 1909.

Fred D. Forcier, owner of "The Header Farm," located on the southwest quarter of section 11, town of Kingman (116, 34), October 30, 1909.

O. A. Allen, owner of "Highland Farm," located on sections 27 and 28, town of Hector (115, 32), December 18, 1909.

Nels Bengtson, owner of "Grandview Farm," located on section 9, town of Hector (115, 32), January 3, 1910.

Nels P. Johnson, owner of "Shadywood Farm," located on section 26, town of Palmyra (114, 33), January 6, 1910.

Nels Dahlgren, owner of "Lone Oak Farm," located on the northeast quarter of section 28, town of Brookfield (116, 32), January 6, 1910.

August Lund, owner of "Topnotch Farm," located on sections 11 and 14, town of Hector (115, 32), January 8, 1910.

John C. Anderson, owner of "Maplewood Farm," located on sections 34 and 35, town of Palmyra (114, 33), January 18, 1910.

Henry Laffen, owner of "Glenwood Farm," located on the southeast quarter of section 9, town of Hector (115, 32), January 22, 1910.

Ola Person, owner of "Elm Grove Farm," located on the northwest quarter of section 10, town of Hector (115, 32), January 28, 1910.

G. A. Anderson, owner of "Glendale Fruit Farm," located on the northeast quarter of section 24, town of Sacred Heart (115, 37), January 28, 1910.

John Hallquist, owner of "The Carpenter's Farm," located on the northeast quarter of section 33, town of Martinsburg (114, 32).

Sven Ahl, owner of "Palmyra Center Farm," located on sections 15 and 22, town of Palmyra (114, 33), February 8, 1910.

Sven Ahl, owner of "Palmyra South Center Farm," located on section 21, town of Palmyra (114, 33), February 8, 1910.

Elias M. Erierson, owner of the "White Star Farm," located on sections 11 and 14, town of Palmyra (114, 33), March 1, 1910.

S. J. Comstock, owner of "Nutwood Farm," located on sections 19 and 30, town of Birch Cooley (113, 34), April 7, 1910.

John Ederer, owner of "The Woodside Farm," located on section 30, town of Birch Cooley (113, 34), April 19, 1910.

Wolfgang Weis, owner of "The Battle Ground Farm," located on sections 19 and 20, town of Birch Cooley (113, 34).

Andrew Weis, owner of "Weis' Coulie Farm," located on section 17, town of Birch Cooley (113, 34), April 19, 1910.

John H. O'Brien, owner of "Pleasant Mound Farm," located on section 24, township of Winfield (116, 35), May 27, 1910.

Edwin B. Wolff, owner of "The Lilacs," located on section 32, town of Melville (115, 33), June 25, 1910.

Elbert W. Van Ornum, owner of the "Midway View Farm," located on the northwest quarter of section 30, town of Norfolk (114, 34), October 4, 1910.

A. Emil Johnson, owner of "Springdale Farm," located on sections 5-8, town of Sacred Heart (114, 37), March 16, 1911.

John H. Sagnes, owner of "Oak Valley Farm," located on sections 22 and 23, town of Hawk Creek (115, 35), June 12, 1911.

Anna Skalbekken, owner of "Meadow Creek Farm," located on sections 23 and 24, town of Hawk Creek (115, 35), January 13, 1913.

Ole R. Erickson, owner of "Sunny Meadow Farm," located on section 36, town of Winfield (116, 35), and section 31, town of Kingman (116, 34), February 7, 1913.

Karenus O. Agre, owner of the "Rendall Farm," located on sections 9-10-11, town of Hawk Creek (115, 38), February 11, 1913.

August Anderson, owner of "Willow Glen Farm," located on sections 21 and 22, town of Palmyra (114, 33), May 22, 1913.

Pedar Gulbrandsen, owner of "Fieldhammer Farm," located on sections 31 and 32, township of Erickson (116, 37), and section 5, town of Sacred Heart (115, 37), May 26, 1913.

John I. Johnson, owner of "Maple Grove Farm," located on sections 23 and 24, town of Wang (116, 38), May 24, 1913.

Edwin Dahlgren, owner of "Sunnyside Farm," located on the northwest quarter of section 10, town of Palmyra (114, 33), June 7, 1913.

C. A. Jacobson, owner of "Elderwood Lane Farm," located on sections 13 and 14, town of Hawk Creek, July 7, 1913.

Oscar Anderson, owner of "North Star Farm," located on sections 13 and 14, town of Hawk Creek (115, 38), May 31, 1913.

R. H. Defries, owner of "Long View Farm," located on the southwest quarter of section 27, town of Crooks (116, 36), August 7, 1913.

Derk Hoogerman, owner of "Round Trip Farm," located on section 17, town of Crooks (116, 36), August 23, 1913.

William H. Burghart, owner of "New Home Stock Farm," located on sections 7 and 18, town of Norfolk (114, 34), September 13, 1913.

Philip Johnson, owner of "Willow Park Stock Farm," located on the northeast quarter of section 36, town of Bird Island (115, 34), October 4, 1913.

Oscar O. Skalbeck, owner of "Lucerne Stock Farm," located on sections 1 and 12, town of Hawk Creek (115, 38), January 26, 1914.

Philip Bingenheimer, owner of the "Spruce Stock Farm," located on sections 18 and 19, town of Troy (115, 35), February 27, 1914.

Fred Hagemeister, owner of "Yellow Trail Stock Farm," located on sections 13 and 24, town of Melville (115, 33), May 4, 1914.

Philip Warner, owner of "Riverside Home," located on section 24, town of Sacred Heart (115, 37), May 18, 1914.

H. B. Pederson, owner of "Breezy Point Stock Farm," located on section 10, town of Birch Cooley (112, 34), May 18, 1914.

S. M. Serkland, owner of "Riverdale Farm," located on section 23, town of Sacred Heart (114, 37), June 2, 1914.

Johanna Schumacher, owner of "Ideal Stock Farm," located on section 27, town of Cairo (112, 32), July 23, 1914.

Gustav L. Malquist, owner of the "Eureka Stock Farm," located on section 17, town of Palmyra (114, 33), January 6, 1915.

Elwin Borden, owner of "Pleasant View Stock Farm," located on section 31, village of Buffalo Lake (Town of Preston Lake, 115. 31), February 26, 1915.

EARLY DIFFICULTIES.

The privations and disasters through which Renville county has passed to its present peace and prosperity would of themselves make an interesting history.

In the earliest days of settlement the county seemed at once about to become one of the most prosperous regions in Minnesota. Along the river and the ravines there was an abundance of water, the soil was rich and not hard to cultivate, there was plenty of wood with which to build cabins, work could be obtained at the agencies not far away, supplies could be purchased from the traders there, and there was more or less traffic on the Minnesota. There were schools at the agencies and there were physicians at the agency and at Ft. Ridgely. The winters were cold and real comforts were few, but nevertheless the people did not undergo the suffering that they did at a later date. The people had cows, poultry and swine, with many oxen for their work. There were also sometimes horses to be found in the settlers' pastures. Drawbacks existed it is true, but little of the acute suffering that came later.

On such a scene of prosperity broke the Indian outbreak, and in a day the county was depopulated. From this blow the county was long in recovering. But gradually some of the settlers came back and others came with them. With the years, the prairie regions began to be settled.

The people on the prairies had a much different experience from those in the ravines and along the bottoms. A sod house or a dugout was their only shelter. If after a while they desired a cabin of poles or logs they had to go to the bottomlands and the ravines. It was quite difficult to obtain timber. The dugouts were crude, but sometimes afforded a better shelter than the cabins, for oftentimes the cabins were filled with holes and chinks through which the winter winds whistled.

Oftentimes an axe and a grub hoe were the only tools of the pioneers. The cabins were usually erected without nails or metal of any kind. Sometimes the windows were covered with paper, sometimes there were no windows. The doors consisted of split poles nailed to a cross strip usually swung on leather hinges. The fireplace or the stove was in one end, and as the ventilation was not always good the cabin was often filled with smoke.

The floor was of trampled earth. Furniture was home-made, bunks and tables usually being crude contrivances swung from the walls. A loft overhead or a trundle bed was usually provided

as a sleeping place for the children. The roofs were usually of brush or shakes, which in heavy storms freely admitted the wind and rain.

Wild game was the principal food, corn was made into meal in a coffee-grinder, pork and bacon were luxuries, coffee was almost unknown, and flour was obtained only with the greatest difficulty. Often the pioneers walked to New Ulm, Willmar or other places, and brought provisions home on their backs.

A few fortunate ones owned the oxen and the wagons with which they came. Some of them, however, hired some one to bring them here. Many of the men walked here, and lived alone until they had erected a cabin, and then hired some one to bring their families. Some were single men who, as soon as their homes were established, went back after their brides. Some continued to be bachelors, and kept house as best they could.

Those who had no oxen had a difficult time in getting poles and logs. After a year or two some of them bought oxen, others bought calves and raised them until they were able to help with the farm work. Sometimes a cow and a steer would be hitched together. The people who had cows were fortunate in that they had a supply of milk for their children, and an opportunity to make butter. Some had a pig or two, and a few brought chickens. Sometimes in the winter the animals had to be brought into the cabins to keep them from perishing in the cold.

There were all sorts of difficulties in raising crops. Insect pests of various sorts came, blackbirds, crows and pigeons ravished the fields, gophers and prairie chickens spoiled the crops, wet seasons rotted the seed, and dry seasons withered the plants, the cattle did not relish the rank grass gathered in the swales.

The winter weather, cyclones, blizzards and tornadoes made life almost unbearable, and many perished. Others who survived moved away, never to return.

In 1873, when the county was beginning to be fairly well settled, there came the great blizzard, beginning January 7. In this blizzard some of the county's best citizens perished and others suffered injuries from which they have never recovered. Possibly this is the greatest blizzard that the county has had, but it is not the only one nor is it the only one in which human life has been lost in the county.

Later, in the same year, 1873, there came the grasshoppers, whose ravages extended until 1877. Renville county is among the counties which suffered each of these years. Some years a small crop was reaped but other years everything in sight was destroyed. On July 1, 1875, a number of farmers from Nicollet, Sibley and Renville counties met at Fort Ridgley for the purpose of considering the grasshopper raid and devising some plan of obtaining bread and seed for the coming winter and spring.

Resolutions were passed, requesting the representatives to try and obtain a loan from the state for three or five years at seven per cent interest. A motion was carried that each farmer desiring aid should file the amount he wanted with the town clerk before the first day of August, 1875.

For many years prairie fires were a serious menace to Renville county farmers. Now the danger is largely passed, for the county is cut up into farms and the farms into fields, and ditches abound everywhere. But for many decades there was little to stop a fire once it got started, and the farmers lost heavily. Stacks barns, sheds, crops and even sometimes houses were burned when these fires swept the country. Backfiring, digging, and other expedients were resorted to as means of stopping the flames when they were started, and sometimes all the men in a large neighborhood would be out with shovels trying to keep back the devouring element which threatened their homes and crops.

Spring freshets brought many dangers, too. The flat country, without ditches to carry off the water or tilled fields to soak up the moisture, became covered in the spring with big swamps and sloughs. The small creeks became raging rivers, and travel became almost impossible.

Hail and windstorms and droughts during the growing season have at times caused loss, and in the early days late frosts in the spring and early frosts in the fall were a menace to crops not yet acclimated, and whose seed had been brought from regions where different climatic conditions existed.

In 1894 the chinch bugs caused much damage to the farmers. Methods of relief were taken, and since then, while they have done more or less damage, there have been no general ravages on the part of these destructive bugs.

Among the cyclones possibly the worst was the one of July 15, 1887, in which many persons lost their lives.

But in spite of these drawbacks, Renville county has become one of the most prosperous in the state. Cattle and swine are found in large numbers, horse breeding is here a fine art, and all the crops usually found in this climate grow in abundance.

One of the features of the Renville county landscape is the great number of domestic groves. Every farm has a good wind-break and a grove from which fuel is obtained.

All in all, there are few places in the United States more desirable as a place of residence than Renville county; settlers are coming here in large numbers, and the value of land is increasing yearly.

The Renville County Agricultural Society and its predecessors have held thirty-five annual fairs, for the most part at Bird Island. The society was organized Dec. 13, 1879, as the Renville County Agricultural & Live Stock Association. The incorporators were:

F. E. Wolff, Norman Hickok, George H. Megquier, W. A. Bump, Charles C. Ladd, J. S. Bowler, L. L. Timmes, Albert Brown, J. K. Salisbury, John King, W. M. Holbrook, J. S. Niles, James Brown, E. D. Stone, and J. J. Sterns. J. K. Salisbury was president; J. S. Niles, first vice-president; Albert Brown, second vice-president; J. C. Ladd, third vice-president; J. S. Bowler, secretary, and F. E. Wolff, treasurer. The first fair was held at Bird Island in 1880. For a time the fair was held at Hector, but for the most part it has been held at Bird Island, where the present splendid fair grounds are permanently located.

Dec. 12, 1895, the Bird Island Fair Association was incorporated by J. M. Bowler, F. L. Puffer, A. N. Stone, H. H. Gokey, Charles Kenning, L. L. Timmes, I. S. Gerald, J. A. Johnson and Philip Johnson. For some years one association conducted the fair and the other controlled the grounds.

Jan. 1, 1912, the Renville County Agricultural Society was reorganized, having on Dec. 9, 1910, secured control of the stock of the Bird Island Fair Association from which it had previously rented the grounds.

The fair grounds and the exhibitions conducted there have given Bird Island wide note. The track is excellent, and the buildings are ample and sightly. New improvements are made each year. At the entrance is the ticket office. The agricultural building houses the school exhibits, the women's exhibits, the Farm Club exhibits, and the general agricultural exhibits. The poultry building, the cattle building and the horse exhibit buildings stand in a row. The swine exhibit building is admirably adapted to its purpose, and south of this are the race horse barns. It is possible that the race horses in the near future will be accommodated at the other side of the tracks. The grandstand seats some 1,600 people. There is a splendid half-mile race track, with the usual judges' stand, and the like. Bleachers have been erected and here are staged many exciting games of the Renville County Baseball League. Not far away is the building of the Bird Island Gun Club and the grounds where the members do their trap shooting. The grounds and buildings are a monument of all who assisted in the development of the project. Old settlers recall the erection of the first building, its destruction by a cyclone, and the many discouragements which were overcome by the few devoted souls who in the early days endeavored to keep the fair alive. It is generally acknowledged that the Bird Island fair is now one of the best, and possibly the very best, local fair held in the state.

The present officers are: J. M. Olson, president; D. S. Hall, first vice-president; Timothy O'Connor, second vice-president; Fred Foesch, third vice-president; Paul Kolbe, secretary; H. A. Puffer, treasurer; directors, C. F. Neitzel, Chas. Kenning; Joseph

Haggett, Joseph Lester; Joseph Kienholz; Chas. Glesener; A. J. Richardson and Henry J. Jungelaus.

The superintendents of exhibits in 1915 were: Division A, Horses, Ed. Kienholz and Jos. Sester; Division B., Cattle, William Korreect; Division C., Swine and Sheep, C. E. Dahlgren and R. V. Frakes; Division D., Poultry, Henry Sing; Division E., Farm Produce, Chas. Glesener and George Hess; Division F., Domestic Products, Mrs. H. A. Puffer and Mrs. Ben Korkemeier, assistant superintendent; Division G., Supplementary, Henry Broderius; Division H., Miscellaneous, H. V. Poore.

The Renville County Poultry Association, which name was adopted Feb. 14, 1911, was organized Oct. 16, 1909, as the Bird Island Poultry Association. The first officers were: President, Joseph Kienholz; secretary, Paul Kolbe; treasurer, Ben. Korkemeier. The first exhibition was held January 5-7, and annual successful exhibitions have since continued to be given. The present officers are: President, Joseph Kienholz; vice-president, Ben. Korkemeier; secretary and treasurer, Paul Kolbe; directors, Ed. Kienholz, Joseph Ziller and Gus. Ninow.

Following are the members of the association with their address, and the variety of poultry raised: Joe Kienholz, Bird Island, Minn., S. C. White Leghorns, Silver Wyandottes, Black Minorcas, Bronze Turkeys; Nick Bartholet, Bird Island, Minn., Black Orpingtons, White Plymouth Rocks; Ben Korkemeier, Franklin, Minn., Barred Plymouth Rocks; Paul Kolbe, Bird Island, Minn., White Plymouth Rocks, White Cochin Bantams; Chris Arlt, Bird Island, Minn., S. C. Brown Leghorns and Toulouse Geese; Wm. Poppe, Montevideo, Minn., White Wyandottes and Toulouse Geese; H. V. Poore, Bird Island, Minn., Barred Plymouth Rocks; Clarence Sing, Bird Island, Minn., White Wyandottes, Partridge Wyandottes, and White Chinese Geese; Ed. Kienholz, Bird Island, Minn., Buff Plymouth Rocks, S. C. White Leghorns; Joe Ziller, Bird Island, Minn., S. C. Brown Leghorns and Bronze Turkeys; H. E. Posely, Stewart, Minn., White and Buff Orpingtons and Columbian Wyandottes; Frank Havlish, Jr., Danube, Minn., White Wyandottes; Frank Goeltz, Morton, Minn., Bronze Turkeys, R. I. Reds, Partridge Wyandottes, Buff Leghorns, White Chinese Geese, African Geese and Pekin Ducks; Martin Paar, Bird Island, Minn., R. C. White Leghorns, White Holland Turkeys, Toulouse Geese; John Hopman, Bird Island, Minn., R. C. Reds and Bronze Turkeys; A. S. Brugman, Renville, Minn., Silver Laced Wyandottes; G. C. Ewer, Bird Island, Minn., S. C. White Leghorns; C. P. Young, Bird Island, Minn., White Crested Black Polish; Frank Weyer, Olivia, Minn., R. C. White Leghorns; Molinaar Bros., Raymond, Minn., S. C. White Leghorns; Dr. D. R. Miller, Bird Island, Minn., S. C. White Leghorns, Black Minorcas and Silver Campines; Chas. Kenning, Bird Island, Minn.,

Black Langshans and Toulouse Geese; E. M. Thomas, Bird Island, Minn., Barred Rocks; H. C. Sherwood, Bird Island, Minn.; Milton A. Schmidt, Chaska, Minn., S. C. Reds, Partridge Plymouth Rocks, and R. C. Reds; Jacob Baumgartner, Bird Island, Minn., S. C. Buff Orpingtons; N. E. Chapman, Owatonna, Minn., State Poultry Expert at the University Farm; A. E. Kirkpatrick, Norwood, Minn., Hondans, White Wyandottes, S. C. White Orpingtons, R. C. Reds, Indian Runner Ducks and African Geese; A. A. Chapman, Olivia, Minn., White and Black Orpingtons; J. W. Franke, Stewart, Minn., White Plymouth Rocks; Jos. Pekarek, Olivia, Minn., White Wyandottes; Jos. C. Gee, Olivia, Minn., S. C. Reds, White Chinese Geese; Fred Zeimer, Waconia, Minn., Barred Plymouth Rocks; Geo. Melquist, Bird Island, Minn., R. C. Black Minorcas; Henry Broberius, Bird Island, Minn., S. C. White Minorcas; E. L. Dresser, New Auburn, Minn., S. C. White Leghorns; Bender Bros., Waconia, Minn., S. C. White Orpingtons, and S. C. White Minorcas; Mrs. Wm. J. Evans, Montevideo, Minn., R. C. Reds, Partridge, Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rocks; Gus Nenow, Bird Island, Minn., White Wyandottes and Toulouse Geese; A. & M. Erickson, Sacred Heart, Minn., White and Partridge Wyandottes; Ole Chunstrom, Sacred Heart, Minn., R. C. Reds and Barred Rocks.

The Minnesota Valley Agricultural and Live Stock Association was organized April 5, 1891, the incorporators being W. G. Bartley, J. H. McGowan, John M. Clancy, J. M. Farisy, Don. McNevin, Andrew McCormick, George Welch, W. W. Miller, M. Dooly, T. J. Treadwell, John McIntosh, Fred Morgan, of Morton; O. L. Dornberg and Joseph Tyson, of Redwood Falls. The first officers were: President, J. H. McGowan; secretary, W. G. Bartley; vice-president, S. A. Greenslit; treasurer, Andrew McCormick. Forty acres were purchased, various buildings were erected, and successful fairs were held for four years. The Birch Cooley monument was erected on the grounds and the fair became widely known. In 1894 the grandstand was erected. But the fair of that year was the last held. The legislature passed an act which deprived the Morton, Renville and Olivia fairs of state support, leaving the oldest fair, the one at Bird Island, the only one so supported. Mr. McGowan has acquired the fair grounds and, to a certain extent, trains his standard bred horses there. A few race meets have also been held there and various celebrations are given from time to time on the grounds.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

DAIRYING AND CREAMERIES.**Story of the Growth of the Industry in Renville County—Present Importance of Dairying—Present and Past Creamery Companies.**

The inhabitants of Minnesota before white people came, lived almost exclusively by hunting and fishing, using no animal milk in any form. The dairy industry did not begin, therefore, before the white people came and settled in the state. The work of preparing the fields for crop growing took a long time, and transportation facilities were very defective, hence the early pioneers had neither time for dairying nor a market for dairy products. Dairying, therefore, was engaged in solely for the purpose of supplying themselves with milk and its products. Later, as the herds began to increase in size, the resulting surplus of milk was made into butter, or occasionally into cheese, and disposed of in the local markets. When villages were established, the production of milk for direct sale as such, developed in their vicinity.

The year 1870 marks, approximately, the introduction of the factory system of butter and cheese manufacture in the state. According to the statistics, two cheese factories had been established by that date. During the twenty years following, little progress was made by either branch of the industry.

The first cheese factory in Renville county was started in 1876 by Charles D. McEwen, who came from a point three miles south of Hutchinson, where he had previously conducted a cheese factory, purchased 160 acres of land in section 31, Boon Lake township, and conducted a dairy farm with twenty-five or more cows.

As late as 1890 the state reports show only one cheese factory and one creamery in Renville county: The Buffalo Lake Cheese Factory, at Buffalo Lake, and the J. Richardson Co., at Bird Island.

In 1900 there were fifteen creameries in Renville county. Where two addresses are given, the first is the postoffice address and the second the railroad shipping point; where but one address is given, the postoffice and shipping point are the same: Norfolk Creamery, Eddsville, Bird Island; Morton Creamery, Morton; Hector Creamery, Hector; Winfield Creamery, Olivia; Florita Creamery, Florita, North Redwood; Bird Island Creamery, Bird Island; Fairfax Creamery, Fairfax; Boon Lake Creamery, Lake Side, Hutchinson; Central Creamery, Olivia; Farmers' Creamery, Buffalo Lake; Renville Creamery, Renville; North Western

Creamery, Saered Heart; Fort Ridgely Creamery, Fort Ridgely, Fairfax; Churchill Creamery, Hector; Osceola Creamery, Bird Island.

Following are the creameries in Renville county for 1910. Where two addresses are given the first is the postoffice address and the second the shipping point. Where but one address is given the postoffice and shipping point are the same. Boon Lake Coöperative Creamery Co., Buffalo Lake, Hutchinson; Brookfield Coöperative Creamery Association, Brookfield, Hutchinson; Buffalo Lake Creamery, Buffalo Lake; Central Creamery Association, Olivia; Clover Leaf Creamery Association of Osceola, Bird Island; Mellville Coöperative Creamery Association, Hector, Bird Island; Morton Creamery Co., Morton; Norfolk & Palmyra Creamery Association, Bird Island; Renville Creamery, Renville; Fairfax Creamery Association, leased, Fairfax.

In 1910 Renville county had six coöperative creameries and three independent ones. There were 1,326 patrons, owning 8,751 cows. About 733,729 pounds of butter were made, and the patrons were paid \$180,119.28.

In 1911 Renville county had six coöperative creameries and two independent ones. There were 1,320 patrons, owning 8,035 cows. About 605,246 pounds of butter were made, and the patrons were paid \$130,125.57.

In 1912 Renville county had six coöperative creameries and six independent ones. There were 981 patrons, owning 5,300 cows. About 409,761 pounds of butter were made, and the patrons were paid \$102,636.01.

In 1913 Renville county had five coöperative creameries and six independent ones. There were 887 patrons owning 5,954 cows. About 864,872 pounds of butter were made and the patrons were paid \$217,815.97.

In 1914, not including the Morton and Hector creameries which did not report, \$179,887.77 was paid to the patrons and the number of pounds of butter made were 767,602.

Following were the creameries in Renville county in 1914. Where two addresses are given the first is the shipping address and the second is the shipping point. Where but one address is given the postoffice and shipping point are the same: Boon Lake Coöperative Creamery Co., coöperative, Buffalo Lake, Hutchinson; Brookfield Coöperative Creamery Association, coöperative, Brookfield, Hutchinson; Buffalo Lake Creamery, independent, Buffalo Lake; Central Creamery Association, coöperative, Olivia; Danube Creamery, independent, Danube; Hector Creamery Co., independent, Hector; Fairfax Coöperative Creamery Co., coöperative, Fairfax; Melville Coöperative Creamery Association, coöperative, Hector, Bird Island; Morton Creamery Co., independent,

Morton; Franklin Coöperative Creamery, coöperative, Franklin; Norfolk & Palmyra Creamery Association, coöperative, Bird Island; Renville Creamery, independent, Renville; Sacred Heart Creamery Co., independent, Sacred Heart.

The following coöperative creameries are now operated in the county: Boon Lake Creamery Co., Lakeside; Central Creamery Association, Olivia; Eddsville Creamery Company, Eddsville; Fairfax Coöperative Creamery, Fairfax; Franklin Coöperative Creamery, Franklin; Melville Creamery Association, Melville; Brookfield Coöperative Creamery Co.; Bird Island Coöperative Creamery Co. One is being built at Hector. Besides these coöperative plants there are private plants at Buffalo Lake, Danube, Renville and Sacred Heart.

In 1860 Renville county had seventy-four cows and produced 400 pounds of butter. In 1870 Renville county had 993 cows and produced 40,185 pounds of butter and 610 pounds of cheese. In 1880 Renville county had 6,083 cows; 429,914 pounds of butter were made on the farms and 13,142 pounds of cheese were made on the farms. In 1890 there were 12,742 cows in Renville county; 3,730,730 gallons of milk; 815,113 pounds of butter and 6,123 pounds of cheese. In 1900, 2,845 farmers reported dairy products; value of all dairy products, \$242,165; value of dairy products consumed on farms, \$102,636; milk produced, 5,633,382 gallons; gallons sold, 1,329,219; pounds of butter made, 879,589; pounds sold, 478,684; cheese made, 5,387 pounds; cheese sold, 4,811 pounds. In 1910: Dairy cows on farms reporting dairy products, 18,041; dairy cows on farms reporting milk products, 9,332; gallons of milk produced, 3,174,852; gallons of milk sold, 213,976; cream sold, 134,528; butter-fat sold, 425,657; butter produced, 783,919 pounds; butter sold, 415,500 pounds; cheese produced, 50 pounds; value of dairy products excluding home use of milk and cream, \$405,618; receipts from sale of dairy products, \$320,100.

Inquiries have been made of the secretaries of the various creameries asking for a history of their respective institutions. In a few instances no reply has been received.

The Bird Island Coöperative Creamery. The first factory for dairy products in Bird Island was a cheese factory. This was built by the Bird Island Creamery and Milling Association on the southeast corner of the block south of the Bird Island Roller Mills in 1883. This company operated the factory the first two seasons. Later it was leased to a Canadian, William Tate by name, who then made cheese at the factory for two summers. After standing idle two years, the J. Richardson Company, one of the original stockholders, bought out the other stockholders, to make the plant over for a creamery, which change was made. The J. Richardson Company operated the creamery successfully

for several years, commencing with gathered cream and installing a separator when separators came into use. The building was bought by a farmers coöperative association which association was running the creamery when it burned down in 1906, it having been under the association management about two years. Since that time the creameries nearest Bird Island have been the Melville and Norfolk-Palmyra creameries, respectively four and seven and one-half miles from town.

In August, 1915, an investigation of the railway company's books at Bird Island by the agricultural department of the Bird Island Public Schools showed that 21,500 gallons of cream had been shipped out of Bird Island in the preceding twelve months, enough cream to make almost 60,000 pounds of butter. A campaign was launched by the Public Schools' Agricultural Department to ascertain and develop sentiment in regard to a creamery. The organization finally resulting is the work of the farmers of the community, working at first through the Renville County Swine Breeders' Association, and is the work of the Bird Island Public Schools. The business men of the community have also coöperated to a very large extent.

At the regular September meeting of the Swine Breeders' Association held in Bird Island, Sept. 5, 1914, a vote was taken to ascertain the sentiment of the members present as to the relative desirability of independent and coöperative creameries. The majority was in favor of a coöperative creamery. A committee was appointed at this meeting to see how much stock could be disposed of and to find out how many cows were in the territory that would be served by a creamery in Bird Island. The committee appointed was: Ralph Loomis, chairman, Bird Island township; Nels Mattson, Kingman township, H. J. Jungelaus, Osceola township; R. V. Frakes, Melville township; J. J. Meurer, Norfolk township.

This committee reported progress at the October meetings of the Swine Breeders' Association by which time fifteen hundred dollars in shares and the product of three hundred and twenty-five cows had been subscribed. A special meeting of the association was held November 25, a booster meeting for the creamery. It was addressed by Prof. F. M. Washburn, Associate Professor of Dairying, University of Minnesota, who talked on the subject, "Coöperative Creameries."

An organization committee to carry on the work of organization was elected at a meeting held December 19. The members that served on this committee were Nels Mattson, chairman, Ralph Loomis, secretary, Joseph Sester and H. T. Rauenhorst. The creameries of Glencoe, Biscay, Fairfax and Franklin were visited by this committee in getting ideas for a creamery in Bird Island. A permanent organization was effected January 22, 1915.

By-laws and Articles of Incorporation were adopted. Officers and directors chosen were: President, Nels Mattson; vice president, Joseph Sester; secretary, Ralph Loomis; treasurer, John J. Hopman; Wolfgang Bauman, George W. Johnson, Joseph Prokosh, John Torbert.

It was decided not to commence building operations until four thousand dollars in cash capital had been subscribed. When this amount had been secured the mark was advanced to four thousand dollars capital to be subscribed by would-be patrons and it was also required that the product of 800 cows be promised for the creamery's raw material. People in town willing to help in starting a creamery subscribed for sixty shares. Shares were \$25 each. Interest on shares being limited by the by-laws to six per cent if any is paid, it is clear that these subscriptions were not made with the expectation of profit.

Fifty-six hundred dollars in shares and the product of 815 cows had been subscribed before the last of July, 1915. The requirements were not raised again. The Creamery Engineering Company of Dassel, Minnesota, was employed to draw plans for the building. The plans call for a building of hollow clay building blocks, the side and rear walls to be covered with stucco and the front wall with a veneer of white glazed brick. The dimensions are 28 feet 2 inches by 56 feet four inches. The equipment will include a 10 horsepower boiler for heating and pasteurizing, two electric motors for power, two 300-gallon cream vats, a churn of 900 pounds capacity and a four-ton refrigerating machine. Much building space has been saved by the use of electric motors for power and by using machine refrigeration. The use of this machinery will also greatly reduce operating expenses.

The contract for erecting the building was awarded to Frank Hagen of Franklin, Minnesota. At this time, November 1, the walls of the building are complete. Indications are that the building will be finished on contract time, November 29, 1915. The machinery should be installed and the creamery in operation before Christmas, 1915. The present officers and directors of the creamery are: President, Joseph Sester; vice president, John Torbert; secretary, Ralph Loomis; treasurer, John J. Hopman; Wolfgang Bauman, George W. Johnson, Joseph Prokosh, William Korreect.

After getting along without a creamery for thirteen years, Bird Island is to have another creamery as the result of fourteen months agitation of the idea of having a modern creamery to provide a local market for cream. With the expenditure of similar effort in making the creamery a success as was expended in getting the building, the Bird Island community will take front rank as one of the prosperous communities following the dairy industry in Minnesota.

The Boon Lake Coöperative Creamery Co. began business Dec. 8, 1897, on the northwest corner of section 27 of Boon Lake township, for the purpose of taking in milk and making butter. The company consisted of about thirty farmers, among whom may be mentioned: H. D. Boorman, John Eggert, W. W. Forbes, Orville J. Edner, William Kurth, Fred Linstadt, Hugh Carrigan, Peter Bensten, and Fred Jorchs. The capital stock was placed at \$3,500. The first officers and directors were William Kurth, Orville J. Edner, Fred Linstadt, H. D. Boorman, John Eggert, W. W. Forbes and Peter Bensten. A house was purchased for the butter maker May 10, 1912. The present officers are Herman Rannow, president; Charles Reinke, vice president; A. W. Barfknecht, secretary; William Kurth, treasurer. Directors—A. Barfknecht, John Reinke and B. F. Sheppard. In 1914, 1,286,555 pounds of milk were received; 166,796 pounds of cream; 86,290.24 pounds of butter fat; \$22,380.04 paid to the patrons for butter; \$29,435.49, receipts from butter. There were sixty-four patrons, owning together about six hundred cows.

The Brookfield Coöperative Dairy Association was incorporated in Boon Lake township, 1899, with the following officers: August Hoefs, president; C. F. Zabel, secretary; H. E. Danielson, treasurer. The directors were John M. Zabel, H. P. Anderson, William Wehking. Butter-making operations were started March, 1900. The butter maker's house is owned by the creamery and was erected about the same time as the creamery building. The present officers are: H. Soltow, president; Herman Zabel, secretary and treasurer. Directors—A. Wojahn, K. Koglin, H. Arndt, E. Kemp and H. Weseloh. The report for 1914 is as follows: Milk received, 526,696 pounds; cream received, 54,444 pounds; butter fat, 31,623.19 pounds. Paid to patrons in check, \$7,429.52. Average number of patrons, 35.

The Buffalo Lake Creamery is located on the corner of Main street in the heart of the village of Buffalo Lake, Minn. It is an independent creamery, owned and managed by John E. Swanson. The building was erected during the summer of 1913 and butter making was begun Jan. 5, 1914. In 1914, 258,489 pounds of cream were received, 85,057 pounds of butter made and \$18,450.72 paid to the 165 patrons. The dairy cows in this neighborhood are of the Holstein, Jersey and Shorthorn breeds. The creamery has proven a success from the first and the output for 1915 is about double that of 1914 showing a steady increase. The village as well as the community as a whole consider the creamery one of their best institutions and are doing their best to make it a success. Several years ago there was a farmers' creamery at Buffalo Lake which after passing through many hands, finally came into the management of Andrew Hanson who operated it for some time until it was closed about four years ago.

The Danube Creamery. Nov. 11, 1912, N. I. Hugger opened the Danube Creamery for business. It was built and operations started in 1908, but at the time Mr. Hugger opened it, it had for some time been standing idle. There are now some 200 patrons owning some 1,000 cows. The Danube "Review" of March 11, 1915, says in part:

"It has been proven over and over again that the local creameries of Minnesota are a better market for cream than the central creameries in the large cities, and that in this state where about one thousand creameries are in operation the farmers receive from six to eight cents a pound more for butter fat than the farmers are receiving in Nebraska and Kansas where the centralizers have killed the local creameries. Only a few years ago the Danube Creamery was standing idle, and a constant demand was made that it be started again as it was a disadvantage for the town and surrounding country to be without a local market for cream. In the fall of 1912 the Danube Creamery was reopened and has since been a success and of great value to the farmers. Now there is less cream shipped from here than any other similar point along the Milwaukee road. This also proves that we have a class of farmers that are loyal to the local creamery and are willing to put their shoulders to the wheel and help a worthy project.

"The Danube Creamery opened up for business on Nov. 11, 1912, and since then has handled 805,951 pounds of cream out of which it manufactured 274,796 pounds of butter. The farmers patronizing this institution received nearly \$70,000 for butter-fat. The creamery is equipped with the most modern machinery that money can buy. The grade of butter made is of high quality and sells at a premium over the market. For this reason the creamery is in a position to pay its patrons the highest market price for their cream and still give them the fullest credit test and weight. The average price paid for butter-fat in February was thirty-one cents a pound."

The Fairfax Creamery Association was organized in 1896 by the following: John B. Lieble, Aug. Voeks, Peter Peschges, Wenzel Frank, J. A. Whitmer, J. W. Donahue and John Albrecht. The following officers were chosen: J. A. Whitmer, president; J. W. Donahue, vice president; Peter Peschges, secretary, and Wenzel Frank, treasurer. Buildings were erected and butter-making operations were started in 1896, the buttermaker being W. E. Cleveland. In 1901, a buttermaker's house was erected. About 1909 the creamery was rented for a period of one year to C. B. Thomas. It is now out of existence.

The Fairfax Coöperative Creamery Co. was incorporated May 9, 1914. The company erected a new and modern brick building in Fairfax with modern equipment at a cost of \$8,000. The name of the persons forming this coöperative association were:

P. W. Garrahy, John Albrecht, John Iago, William S. Ruona, Anton Melvold, Herman Schmechel, J. A. Whitmer, W. Frank, N. J. Olson, Charles Firie, Walter Caven, Paul Albrecht, all of Fairfax, Renville county, and vicinity.

The association was organized for the purpose of buying, selling, manufacturing and dealing in milk, cream, ice cream, butter and cheese and generally conducting a creamery business, and buying and selling eggs and poultry and conducting a community laundry. The constitution of this association provides the amount of capital to be \$20,000 and that the amount of indebtedness or liability which the association may contract shall not exceed \$5,000. One director is elected from each of the following townships: Cairo, Camp, Bandon and Wellington, if possible, and a director-at-large, such officers being chosen annually by the stockholders. The annual meeting of the stockholders is held the first Monday in February of each year.

The names of the first board of directors were: President, J. A. Whitmer; treasurer, John Albrecht; Herman Schmechel, William S. Ruona, Anton Melvold and Paul Albrecht, directors. Buttermaking operations were begun Feb. 10, 1915. Sept. 1, 1915, W. E. Cleveland, who was connected with the old creamery, started in 1896, became the buttermaker. The present officers are: J. A. Whitmer, president; Herman Schmechel, vice president; J. W. Donahue, secretary; John Albrecht, treasurer; Anton Melvold; John Lieble, Jr., and Henry Erickson, directors. About sixty tubs of butter are made during the week and from \$3,000 to \$3,500 are paid to the patrons during the month. Buttermilk is sold for 26½ cents per barrel. There are over 100 patrons and about 1,000 cows of various breeds, chief of which are the Holstein, Jersey and Red Pole.

The Franklin Farmers' Coöperative Creamery is located on the main street in the heart of the business section of Franklin, Minn. The company was organized March 4, 1914, and incorporated on March 16, 1914, with a capital of \$5,000. The incorporators were: Edwin Hed. of the State Dairy and Food Department, William Johnson, Matt. Niemi, Isaac Bogema and Henry Heikka. The erection of the building was begun July, 1914, and buttermaking operations began Nov. 21, 1914. The first officers were: President, William A. Johnson; vice president, J. C. Farrell; treasurer, Fred Tower; secretary, William Fox; directors, J. D. Diekmeier, William Ruona and Henry Heikka; manager and buttermaker, J. L. Grellong. William Ruona has been succeeded by H. B. Peder son as director. The first annual report of the creamery reads as follows: From Nov. 21 to Dec. 31, 1914—Pounds of milk received, 2,293; pounds of cream received, 13,906; average test of milk, 3.88 per cent; average test of cream, 33.73 per cent; pounds of butter fat in the milk, 88.20;

pounds of butter fat in the cream, 4,691.20; total pounds of butter-fat, 4,779.40; pounds of butter shipped to New York, 4,592; butter sold at creamery, 421 pounds; total pounds of butter made, 5,013; pounds lost in shrinkage to market, 39; received payment for 4,974 pounds; average price paid patrons, 32.24 cents; average price received for butter, 32.4 cents; pounds butter fat sold in cream, 782.20; pounds butter fat made into butter, 3,997.20; pounds over-run, 977; per cent of over-run, 24.4; total amount received for butter, \$1,612.04; total amount received for cream, \$253.05; total amount received for buttermilk, \$20.12; total amount for sulphuric acid, 15 cents; total amount received, \$1,885.36; paid for butter fat, \$1,540.98; paid for running expenses, \$183.50; total paid out, \$1,724.48. Balance on hand, Dec. 31, 1914, \$160.88. The breeds most favored in the community are the Holstein and Guernsey. The present buttermaker is L. J. Grellong.

The Hector Creamery Association was organized June 17, 1899, at Hector by P. E. Toole, Frank Marsh, George McGrath, P. O'Donnell, Chas. Wenz, Bert Alberts, C. H. Reuber, R. Scheel, Thos. Torbenson, Geo. Weber, A. Mahn, Chas. Roitz, E. Thielmann, Victor Peterson, Knud Christenson, Albert Schwarzkop, John Tesch, Simon Jenson, Carl Gubbe, F. F. Gablenz, F. A. Green, Karl Moag. The capital stock was \$5,000. The following were the first officers: George McGrath, president; Charles Roitz, vice president; Frank Marsh, secretary; Gus Mahn, treasurer; Bert Alberts, C. H. Reuber, and P. O'Donnell, directors.

Some ten years ago this creamery was sold to the Hutchinson Produce Co. They manufactured butter for a while, but for some years past have used it for a skimming station, shipping the cream to Hutchinson and the Twin Cities. Plans are now on foot for the formation of a new coöperative creamery in Hector.

The Melville Coöperative Creamery Company is located in the town of Melville, section 16, southeast quarter, three and a half miles east of Bird Island. It was organized Jan. 19, 1901, the first officers being: President, Herman Zupke; vice president and treasurer, Chas. Zupke; secretary, Carl Mueller. Directors—E. M. Wolff, F. E. Wolff, Rudolph Minks, Louie Arnold. A building was erected in January, 1901, and butter operations started in March, 1901. A house for the buttermaker was erected in 1910. The present officers are: President, Albert Foesch; vice president, Rudolph Minks; secretary, H. C. Krueger; treasurer, Hans Peterson. Directors—Robert Wolff, Charles Peterson and Charles Degner. The annual report for 1914 gives the following facts: Pounds of milk received, 541,685; pounds of cream, 108,668; average test of milk, 57.98; test of cream, 28.00; butter fat from milk, 20,134 pounds; butter fat from cream, 28,487.7 pounds; pounds of butter made, 58,453; butter sold to patrons,

4,981; pounds of butter shipped, 53,562; amount paid to patrons, \$13,023.69; average price paid patrons, 30 cents; received from buttermilk, \$40; over run, 98,342, or 20 per cent; cash on hand from last year, \$595.58; received from butter shipped, including sales to patrons, \$15,516.81; received from other sources, \$8; total, \$16,120.39. Running expenses—Buttermaker's salary, \$790; secretary's salary, \$36; other office salaries, \$36; fuel, \$467.30; tubs and other packages, \$463.80; salt, \$25; color, \$10; oil, \$37.73; ice, \$484; total, \$2,069.83. There are thirty-six patrons, each owning about ten cows, no particular breed of cow being specialized in.

The incorporators Jan. 19, 1901, were Carl Miller, Fred Grimm, E. Wolff, Otto Deguer, J. F. Porter, John Dummer, Rudolph Minko, Hans Peterson, Chas. Zupke, Har. Brunner, Peter Meyer, August Hedtke, H. W. Zupke, John H. Rice, F. E. Wolff, Frank Butall, Leonard J. Rice, Louis Arnold, R. J. Marks, Herman Miller, August Berg, Jos. Ruter, Louis Buss, Michael Post, Ole Anderson, R. R. Wolff, George Rice, Henry Kruger and Fred Koehler, all of Melville.

The Morton Creamery Co. was incorporated Oct. 28, 1901, by August Vogel, Sherman, Redwood county; Arthur S. Kenney, Paxton, Redwood county; John Buery, Birch Cooley; M. B. Bert-rang, Leonard Farnbaugh, A. F. Mahowald, Fred Pfeiffer, F. M. Keefe, A. H. Keefe, Fred W. Orth, Joseph Smith, Andrew McCormick, George Wederath, F. W. Penhall, G. A. Brown and E. F. Lentz, all of Morton. Officers: President, August Vogel; vice president, John Buery; secretary Arthur S. Kenney; treasurer, Leonard Farnbaugh. The capital stock was placed at \$3,500. August Vogel, H. M. Noack, F. M. Orth, M. Holden and A. S. Kenney were actively identified with the destinies of the company. Operations were commenced in 1901. In 1912 the plant was leased to P. L. Gardner who opened an ice cream plant in connection.

The Norfolk and Palmyra Farmers' Creamery Association is located in the northeast corner of section 24, township of Norfolk, adjoining the township of Palmyra. The creamery was organized Feb. 27, 1900, by Alex. Harrison and the first officers were Ole Johnson, president; J. B. Keltgen, secretary; Chas. Glesener, treasurer; directors, Jas. Powers, Christ Gullickson, Joe Schmall and Andrew Danielson. The erection of the building was started shortly after the organization of the association and was ready for business May 8, 1900, with Geo. Chandler as butter-maker, who held that position for the first five years. Then Osear Norskog acted as buttermaker until Feb. 1, 1915, when he was succeeded by Theo. Norskog. The farmers received sixteen cents per pound for butter fat during the very first month of the creamery's operation. Before that they had received a very

low price for their farm butter. The present officers are Ole Johnson, president; John Hilgert, vice president; Theo. Norskog, secretary; Chas. Glesener, treasurer and manager. Directors, Ben. Korkemier, Gust. Melquist, Joe Menerrer, and Solomon Johnson. The last annual report of the creamery is as follows: 310,589 pounds cream received; paid to the patrons in check, \$22,385.79; in butter, \$266.808; in sundries, \$1,177.83; butter shipped, 94,299 pounds, worth \$24,094.80; butter sold to patrons, 9,221 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds, worth \$2,668.08; butter sold elsewhere, 7,748, worth \$2,161.02; cream sold, \$3.20; buttermilk sold, \$119; received from other sources, \$177.61. There are about 140 patrons with a total of 900 cows of various breeds the two most prominent being the Holstein and Shorthorn.

The Central Creamery Association of Olivia was organized in 1899 with a capital stock of \$5,000. The incorporators were: William Wolff, Henry Fehr, M. W. Converse, C. W. Deyling, George Mehlhous, C. Fisher, R. P. Peterson, Andrew Broden, Wm. H. Pfeiffer, Wm. A. Johnson, H. D. Hopman, B. Sanderson, Thomas Flood, Albert Carlson, Fred Fox, A. Donnelly, William Laird, Henry Dunsmore, P. A. Comstock, H. J. Kuske, Herman Reek, J. J. Bickel, O. H. Julson, John Mehlhouse, A. Fox, F. Havelish, G. M. Riedner, John E. W. Peterson, J. F. Roesler, Theodore Bombeck, John E. Demsted, O. R. Erickson, A. Cunningham, Alfred Heaney, Perry Burch and Henry Palas. The first officers were: William Wolff, president; H. Fehr, vice president; Mark Converse, secretary; Chas. W. Dwyling, treasurer; directors, Ole J. Julson, G. M. Riedner, and O. R. Erickson. Peter Christenson was buttermaker. The present board consists of H. D. Hopman, president; James F. Haley, vice president; H. Fehr, secretary, and G. J. Wetzstein, treasurer; directors, O. R. Erickson, C. F. Haber and B. A. Tersteeg. From 80,000 to 120,000 pounds of butter fat are received.

The Sacred Heart Creamery was purchased from the farmers by Bengt Nelson, the present proprietor, Jan. 1, 1913. He does a business of about \$25,000 a year. In 1914 he made 55,000 pounds of butter. He has a good trade in cream, butter, eggs and poultry, and is widely known for his honorable dealing.

The Kolbert Creamery & Produce Co. The business men and farmers started a creamery in Renville in the nineties. But after various vicissitudes it was sold and was operated under private ownership until January, 1913, when P. J. Kolbert purchased it. In 1913 he paid out \$23,000, in 1914, \$27,000, and he estimates that in 1915 the business will reach \$35,000. In connection with the creamery he does a produce business.

Other creameries that have been incorporated in this county are the following:

The Buffalo Lake Farmers' Creamery Co. was organized many years ago. The first officers were: President, Darwin S. Hall; vice president, John G. Wallner; secretary, Frank Leasman, treasurer, Ole Olson. After the creamery was operated for a while it was leased to various persons at different times, and was finally discontinued.

The Erickson Farmers' Coöperative Creamery and Cheese Association was incorporated May 17, 1899, by the following: A. D. Smith, G. S. Osmundson, E. McBroom, Julius Diedrick, Lars Evenson, Halgrin Tostenson, C. T. Gulsвик, Peter P. Hammen, Jacob Anderson, Henry Pellowshond, William Schneider, Ole T. Gulsвик, Kasper Warner, P. Dybson, Jan D. Bruns, Martin De Vries, Lendert Huls, Will McBroom, Henry Wille, Talen Groat, Obbe Hulzing, B. Gruen, P. Wulf, Jacob J. Jacobs, Tosten H. Wolstad, Eric Hanson, H. H. Rolie, Casper Oleson, C. Pederson, J. W. Bakken, H. Decknatel, August Swanson, Carl Anderson. The capital stock was placed at \$3,500. The first board of directors was: Tosten Wolstad, Julius Diedrick, A. D. Smith, Ephriam McBroom, Peter Wulf, August Swanson and Kasper Warner.

The Flora Farmers' Coöperative Creamery Association was formed March 5, 1898, by F. A. Schroeder, W. Wieske, F. Luecks, Joseph Ahrendt, W. Kuglin, Emil Breikreutz, Herman Droage, Fred Sommers, George Soltan, Fred Steinkamp, Fred Streech, John Wagnen, August Zaske, Peter Bingen, W. Reed, Fred Bratsch, Julius Straneh, J. A. Grabow, August Beyer, Nick Zimmerman, Frank Foster, J. A. Schroeder, F. H. Breikreutz. The officers were: President, F. A. Schroeder; vice president, W. Weiske; secretary, Julius Spenber; treasurer, Frank Foster; trustees, August Zaske, Peter Bingen, Ferdinand Sommers. The capital was placed at \$3,400.

The Flora Creamery Co. was incorporated in the town of Flora, Jan. 26, 1900, by F. A. Schroeder, Julius Sperber, Frank Foster, F. Sommers, Wm. Weiseke, Paul Breikreutz, Ferdinand Leuck, L. A. Prodoehl, John Wagner, J. A. Schroeder, Gus. R. Schroeder, Henry Becker, Herman Draker, John Reetz, Charley Bratsch, Aug. R. Zaske, Joseph Ahrendt, J. A. Grabow. The first officers were: President, F. A. Schroeder; vice president, F. Sommers; secretary, Julius Sperber; treasurer, Paul Breikreutz; directors, Frank Foster, William Weiseke and F. M. Shoemaker. The capital stock was placed at \$4,000.

The Henryville Coöperative Creamery Co. was incorporated Oct. 5, 1901, in the township of Henryville by Frank Trochil, John A. Vomaeka, Wencil Wertish, William Headt, J. M. Skoblik, F. J. Haudik, John Malecek, Martin Stepka, Frank Dobeas, Seymour Stevens, John G. Swoboda, Joseph Swoboda, Joseph Fossenbauer, J. J. Dolesal, Anton Rejsek, Joseph Riedl, Philip

Christ, John Safar, J. F. Kubesh, F. V. Vertish, Mary Wacek, Ferdinand Fritz and Joseph Pulkrabek. The first board of directors was: Frank Trochlil, J. A. Vomaeka, Weneel Wertish, J. M. Scobolik, William Haedt, Frank Hodek, John Malechek. The amount of capital was placed at \$4,000.

The Martinsburg Coöperative Creamery Co. was incorporated Nov. 6, 1901, by M. R. Tompkins, Oscar C. Anderson, J. H. Maxwell, Aug. Soderquist, P. J. Carlson, Johan D. Skaldberg, J. Hallquist, Lewis Hable, Otto Johnson, D. E. Youngren, A. G. Caarlson, Gustaf Bjolin, Julius Schiffman, E. Johnson, A. G. Burgeson, James Larson, Albin Anderson, Fred G. Schultz, Charles Schultz, and Carl Kruger, all of Martinsburg; Fritz Reuter, Carl Laub, and George Steinke, of Wellington; And. Dahl, of Bandon; Emil Larson, John Anderson, and N. P. Johnson, of Palmyra. The first officers were: M. R. Tompkins, president; D. Youngren, vice president; August Soderquist, secretary, and J. H. Maxwell, treasurer. The capital stock was \$4,000.

The Clover Leaf Creamery Co. was incorporated March 26, 1912, at Osceola, by John Hornan, John H. Bargmann, Hamlin V. Poore, S. M. Freeman, H. J. Jungelaus, Frank Stamer, F. O. Grimm, E. A. Grimm, Henry Broderius, Henry Sing. The officers were: President, Hamlin V. Poore; vice president, John Hornan; secretary, S. M. Freeman; treasurer, H. J. Jungelaus; directors, Frank Stamer, Henry Sing and John Bargmann.

The Farmers' Coöperative Creamery Co. of Sacred Heart was the first creamery in Sacred Heart and was operated for a while with varying success.

The Sacred Heart Farmers Creamery Co. was organized with I. P. Flotten, president; H. A. Peterson, secretary, and F. O. Johnson, manager. For a time it flourished and four different shipping stations were established in neighboring villages. After passing through varying fortunes, however, it finally passed into the hands of Bengt Nelson, the present owner.

The Winfield Creamery Co. was incorporated May 1, 1900, in Winfield by P. Christianson, president; Nels Swanson, secretary; Olaf Tatting, Albert Frankson, Frank Fousek, directors; and Ulrick Julson. The capital stock was not to exceed \$1,500.

CHAPTER XXXV.

GOOD ROADS

**Trophies Won—Grading and Ditching—Mileage—Expenses—
Levies—Increase in Importance—State Roads—Interstate
Routes—Advantages—By William A. Schummers.**

Miss Renville County (may her tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw within the moonlight in her room,
As usual rich and like a lily in bloom,
A reporter writing in a book of gold:
Great prosperity had made Miss Renville bold,
And to the newspaperman she said,
"What writest thou?" The reporter raised his head,
And, with a glance about at her wonderful abodes,
Answered, "The names of those who have good roads."
"And is mine one?" said she. "Nay, not so,"
Replied the writer. Miss Renville spoke more low,
But cheerily still; and said, "Remember then,
We have some hustlers among our men."
The reporter wrote, and vanished. On a later night
He came again, with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom Industry had blessed,
And lo! Renville County's name led all the rest!

The year 1910 marked the rather unexpected winning of two good roads trophies in competition with a large number of other counties of the state. The first of these is a large and handsome silver loving cup, kept in the county auditor's office at Olivia, and presented to the county by Louis W. Hill for the best county road on the M. S. A. A. Reliability Run from St. Paul to Sioux Falls, held July 22-26 of that year.

The second trophy, a beautiful French bronze statue on a base of onyx, seven feet in height, and valued at \$1,500, was awarded to the county as having the best roads on the Tribune Reliability Run held in October. While in the possession of the county, this statue with its appropriate and significant inscription, "On the field of labor, Victory is fruitful," was kept at the courthouse. The figure is that of victorious Labor gathering the sheaves of success. In speaking of the contest, the Minneapolis "Tribune" said:

"That this signal honor should go to Renville county was not unexpected. For weeks automobile men of that county, headed by M. J. Dowling, have been carrying on an active campaign and have had men and teams at work dragging the soil. In contrast to various other counties the stretch of 55 miles within the boundaries of Renville showed that much effort had been put into the work. In all, nine counties were open to competition. While the roads in Renville have been little improved, that is, gravelled,

yet they show to a marked degree what can be accomplished by intelligent work under existing local conditions. Here the roads for the distance of 55 miles had been dragged by an ordinary king road drag which can be built at small expense. These drags have been used extensively and have put the roads of Renville in excellent condition. The ditches have been kept open, drainage has been provided for, and the surface dragged smooth. It was a great pleasure to ride over them. With gravel surface and maintained in their present condition they present an ideal country road for travel at all seasons and weather."

A glance at a road map will show that Renville county is well supplied with roads, the total amounting to 1,648 miles. Of these 480 miles are improved roads (Jan. 1, 1915); about 1,448 miles are township or judicial roads and over 200 are designated as state roads. State roads are under the immediate supervision of the State Highway Commission and when completed will be fully graded, drained, and gravelled. They aim to connect all the objective points in the county and nearby counties.

The work done involves an immense amount of labor and considerable expense; just how much money and labor it is impossible to say. The amount levied for the County Road and Bridge Fund for 1915 is \$24,355.82. The work in the county is under the supervision of the district engineer, Frank M. Shephard, who is employed by the Commission for one-half the year and acts as Construction Superintendent for the county during the remainder of the time. His report shows that four and a half acres were cleared and grubbed in 1914; one mile of ditching was done; 39.5 miles of road was graded; six culverts installed, and about thirteen miles of gravelling done; all at a cost of \$28,882. Out of this, \$22,782 of construction cost was entitled to and received state aid under the Dunn law for the amount of \$12,800. Likewise, \$2,867 was received from the state to apply on the maintenance cost of 175 miles of road amounting to \$4,788. The letting of contracts for all work done is increasing in favor over the day system of labor, especially for the larger jobs.

The first step towards building a permanent road is a system of permanent drainage. Tile drainage is apt to prove most satisfactory. The chief difficulty lies in securing a proper outlet.

Next to drainage comes grading. Some roads are too wide. The narrower the roadway, the needs of traffic and the passing of vehicles provided for, the easier to keep the road from soaking full of water. The surface must be rounded sufficiently to shed water. Ruts must be filled as fast as formed. An ounce of gravel by way of prevention is better than a pound of cure thrown into a later mudhole. Dragging regularly a short while after rains has given us the best roads in the county, excepting gravelled roads.

The latter are the ideal country roads. Clay and gravel pack together well and form an excellent surface. They will bear heavy traffic if the crust of clay and gravel is of sufficient thickness. Comparatively little gravelling was done during 1914, the available funds having been used mainly for the grading up of a large number of bad pieces of road: a great amount of this work is planned on for the near future. Gravel pits are so distributed that the average haul for state work is about four miles. The county owns one gravel pit, north of Olivia, and gravel can be bought from private owners for from ten to twenty-five cents the load. The county has a set of graders, scrapers, and King drags, numbering about one hundred pieces in all.

The sentiment for good roads over the county is very strong and is increasing as the road work advances. The general cry is for permanent roads which will stand up regardless of weather conditions. The total annual expenditures for roads and bridges during the last six years afford an intelligent index: 1909, \$2,784.90; 1910, \$6,416.35; 1911, \$16,501.62; 1912, \$23,686.46; 1913, \$25,879.76; 1914, \$53,193.55. With the abundance of gravel in the county and the increasing appreciation of good roads brought on by the more increased use of the automobile, the day cannot be far distant when the main thoroughfares will resemble city boulevards.

Perhaps no class of people is more interested in the matter of good roads than farmers. Located in the central part of the state and at an average distance of only 100 miles from important markets, good roads become a necessity if farm products are to be marketed at opportune times and with the lowest expense. The farmer's haul the country over is about nine miles. The average cost of hauling farm produce to market is \$2.09 per ton, or about 23 cents per ton per mile, figuring in the cost of men and teams and wear of vehicles. This is three times the cost along European roads. Railroads hauled fourth class freight at an average of one cent per ton per mile. With better roads the local expense of marketing should be cut in two.

There are fifteen roads in Renville County designated as state roads, with a total length of 203 miles, not including about 14 miles of roads lying within corporation limits. Road No. 1 runs north and south through Morton and Olivia to the county limits. It is gravelled almost the entire twenty and one-half miles and in some respects is probably the most important road in the county. Number 2 runs from the west county line to Hector, passing through five villages on the way; length, 37 miles. Number 3 runs from the south county line through Fairfax, Hector and Buffalo Lake towards Hutchinson, its length being 30 miles. Number 4 runs through Morton, Franklin and Fairfax; length, 14.5 miles. It is gravelled between the last named towns and

this part is exceptionally fine. Number 5 runs from Franklin northward through Bird Island to the county line with a length of 22 miles. Number 6 extends from a point $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Buffalo Lake southward to the county line; length, 2 miles. Number 7 is a half-mile stretch in the southeastern corner of Preston Lake on the "Yellow Trail." Number 8 is $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, running north and south to the county lines and through the village of Sacred Heart. Number 9 runs from Hector to the north county line, length, 9.5 miles. Number 10 runs north from about the center of Boon Lake to county line towards Hutchinson and is 3 miles long. Number 11 is 3 miles long, from state road Number 4, 2 miles east of Franklin, south to the Minnesota river. Number 12 is seven miles long, running from Danube to the north county line. Number 13 is 15 miles long, running from Danube south to county line. Number 14 is 17 miles long; runs from north to south county lines through Renville. Number 15 is 8.5 miles long, running from state road Number 5 to state road Number 3 through Eddsville. These state roads are so laid out that they take care of all the principal lines of travel to and from the various villages in this and adjoining counties, there being one east-and-west and one north-and-south state road through each village in the county.

There are three inter-state roads crossing the county, the principal one of which is the Yellowstone Park Trail which crosses the county from east to west, passing through Buffalo Lake, Hector, Bird Island, Olivia, Danube, Renville and Sacred Heart. This trail originates in Chicago and runs west through Yellowstone Park to Seattle and the Pacific Coast. The road next in importance is state road Number 1, running north and south across the county through Morton and Olivia. This road is the main traveled road from the central and western parts of Iowa to the central and northern parts of Minnesota. As affecting real estate values this road is probably the most important in the county; it is graded in good shape and is a good token to the land-seekers from Iowa as to the prosperity of the county. Because farm products can be hauled to market over this road under all conditions of weather, it has led to many real estate transactions and has helped boost the price of neighboring land. The other important cross-country trail, known as the "Black and Yellow," runs east and west across the southern part of the county, through Fairfax, Franklin and Morton. This is one of the main trails from the Twin Cities to Southwestern Minnesota and South Dakota.

The best way to advertise Renville county is to maintain the important trails in the best condition and let the thousands of tourists over these trails know that the residents of Renville county are prosperous and progressive.

The Minnesota river is well bridged in this county. One bridge is about to be built in Hawk Creek. There are two in Sacred Heart. Of the two in Flora one marks the site of the old Vicksburg ferry. There is one connection at Beaver Falls township with North Redwood. Birch Cooley township has two bridges, one near Morton and one south of Franklin.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

CITIES AND VILLAGES

Inception, Growth and Modern Progress of the Business Centers of Renville County—Renville the Only City—Bird Island—Buffalo Lake—Danube—Fairfax—Franklin—Hector—Morton—Olivia—Sacred Heart.

Renville is an attractively located city on the H. & D. division of the C. M. & St. Paul in the northwestern part of Emmet township. It is the only city in Renville county, and with its well-laid-out streets, slightly residences, well-kept lawns, numerous shade trees and hustling business center presents a truly metropolitan appearance. The city has three banks, the O'Connor Brothers State Bank, the Renville State Bank and the First National Bank. Two newspapers, the Star-Farmer and the Independent are published. There are four churches, the German Lutheran, the Norwegian Lutheran, the Methodist Episcopal and the Catholic churches. Among the fraternities may be mentioned the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen, the Royal Neighbors, the Rebekahs, the Ladies of the Maccabees and the Catholic Foresters.

The city has waterworks, sewer, electric power furnished by the Minnesota Valley Power Co. at Montevideo, a slightly city park, a city hall, a fire department, a city gas plant, and other improvements. The Northwestern telephone furnishes local and long-distance service, while the Tri-State furnishes long-distance service exclusively. Many rural telephones center here.

The present officers of Renville are as follows: Mayor, William J. Ashley; aldermen-at-large, S. A. Smith and Wesley Sanders; alderman from the first ward, J. J. Bakker; alderman from the second ward, John F. Wein; alderman from the third ward, M. S. Jordet; municipal judge, Robert K. Stuart; clerk, L. W. Kannenberg; treasurer, S. M. Serkland; city attorney, L. W. Kannenberg; marshal and superintendent of gas and waterworks, John Clausen; assessor, G. J. Lee; constables, Louis Du Houx and Robert E. McKinley; justices of the peace, David Benson and Peter Haan; park board, Patrick O'Brien, L. E. Lambert and Samuel W. Bierlien; board of health, Dr. E. M. Clay, Fred A. Leistikow and G. O. Torgerson.

When the village of Renville was first projected, John O'Brien was living on the present village site, east of the northeast corner of the present park. It was he who set out the trees which now adorn the park. Southwest was the home of John Cole. He set out many trees, and a part of his farm is still known as Cole's grove. Just south of the original plat was the vacant home of Thomas Foster. This place was afterward acquired by John Barnard, and some of the sightliest residences in the city are now erected on additions that have been platted from the Barnard farm. Southeast of the Foster place was John Kronlokken. Still further east was John Lee. East of the prospective village was the farm of R. Michaelson. Directly north of Michaelson was Espen Hanson. Northwest of the prospective village was the Bennison farm. The land to the north was owned by the railroad and for a considerable distance was unoccupied, except that an eccentric character named Jessup was on what is now the Daly-Barnard farm.

The principal road in this vicinity before the village was platted was the north and south road, extending from the Willmar settlement south to the ford near what was then the village of Vicksburg.

When the roadbed of the railroad was graded through this part of the county there was for a time considerable doubt as to where the city was to be located. For a time it appeared that the site was to be a quarter of a mile west of the present site. There, just across the track from the old Bennison farm, the railroad construction company conducted a store in a shack. There, too, Samuel T. Rolson also conducted a small store.

It was in September, 1878, that the site for Renville was surveyed and platted, and in October, with the coming of the railroad the town was born. The original site was laid in the township of Emmet, in the southwest quarter of section 5. It was for a number of years called Renville Station.

The village presented a scene of busy activity. Work was commenced on the Griffin-Stevens elevator and lumber yard, on the Samuel T. Rolson store, the Boyd & King store, the Carl Henning store, the Dodge & McIntosh hotel and the railroad station.

The Griffith & Stevens elevator, now known as the Columbia elevator, is still standing on the west side of Main street, south of the railroad property. It originally stood in the street, but has been moved west to its present location. East of it was the office of the lumber yard. In it Geo. C. Stevens lived with his family, and Charles S. Griffin boarded with them.

J. B. Anderson, the first station agent, kept the office for a while in a box car. During the winter of 1878-79, the present station was erected.

The firm of Boyd & King, consisting of J. B. Boyd and John King, started the first general store on the site of the present Renville State Bank building. Mr. Boyd moved a small shack from Willmar and the firm sold goods in it while their store was being built.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Dodge and S. M. McIntosh, a school teacher who had lived with them on their farm in section 30, Emmet township, opened a hotel, the old American House, on the present site of the Kronlokken garage.

Lars Pederson started a blacksmith shop about midway between what is now the store of Heins & Co. and the First National Bank.

B. F. Heins, in company with P. W. Heins, of Beaver Falls, engaged in the hardware business. The site is still occupied by the Heins & Co. store. B. F. Heins now lives in Bertha, Minn. He reached Renville county about Sept. 15, 1878, and lived in Beaver Falls until November 1, when, with P. W. Heins, as mentioned, he opened a hardware store in Renville village, then called Renville Station. They built a little store about 16 by 40, with a shed roof, and lived in the back part the first winter. Mr. Heins is sure that people in a new country such as Renville in those days enjoy themselves more than in an older settled country. B. F. Heins remained in business in Renville until Jan. 20, 1901, when he sold out to Ed. Heins. Previous to this, F. M. Rich had also been a member of the firm for awhile.

Samuel T. Rolson opened a store in 1878 in a shack about on the present site of the new Commercial club building.

A little later in the year, W. F. Baade came in from Vicksburg, and erected the block still known as the Baade block on Main street.

J. B. Anderson formed a partnership with W. D. Spaulding and opened a drug store on the present site of the First National Bank, opening in December, 1878. Mr. Anderson became postmaster in January, 1879, and at that time the Wadsworth post-office conducted by L. A. Brooks in the southern part of Emmet was discontinued. Anderson sold out to Spaulding, who continued the drug business.

A school building was erected in the spring of 1879 at a cost of \$500, and 10 per cent bonds were issued to pay for it. S. N. Olson was the contractor who erected this edifice, which was 20 by 24 and one story high. This building has been used as city hall and jail and is now the west half of the city hall. The first school board consisted of R. Michaelson, John F. Smith and John King. Mrs. George Mix was engaged as the first teacher, at \$25 a month for a three-term school.

Lots were first assessed in the village of Renville Station in 1879. Those assessed were: O. N. Olson, lot 13, block 3; Thomp-

son & Wilson, lots 9 and 12, block 3; Samuel T. Rolson, lots 5 and 8, block 3. In 1880, there were added to this list: Anna Wilson, lot 6, block 9; Julia L. Patterson, lots 7 and 10, block 19; George C. Stevens and Charles S. Griffin, lot 18, block 2; Caroline Henning, lots 1 and 4, block 3, lot 10, block 9; Emery Tram, lot 10, block 12; Thos. Hargrove, lot 10, block 2; P. W. Boyd, lot 15, block 2; Samuel Karnes, lots 2 and 3, block 3; Selma Tillsch, lot 5, block 4; Peter Parqueth, lot 9, block 4; Tollef Olson, lot 20, block 4, lot 3, block 11; W. D. Spaulding, lots 1 and 4, block 8; Lars Pederson, lots 13 and 16, block 8, lot 5, block 11; B. F. & P. W. Heins, lots 17, 20, 21 and 24, block 8; C. Kammemburg, lot 11, block 9; August Peck, lot 14, block 9; J. T. Brooks, lot 18, block 9; Richard Randall, lot 19, block 9; O. Nelson and Nels Olson, lots 22 and 23, block 9; M. L. Anderson, lot 2, block 12.

The Methodists were the first religious denomination to hold services in the village. Rev. Kingsland was holding services at the schoolhouse in Emmet at the time the village was started, and in 1879 he was moved to Renville. The first services were held in the Griffin elevator office in that year, and continued to be held in private houses and business places until the year 1885. A Sunday school was organized and of this B. F. Heins was superintendent for a number of years. In 1885, under the pastorate of Rev. Neary, the first church building was erected on the site of the present building. The town was supplied with a physician from the start, in the person of a Dr. Fleischman, a German doctor, who was here until 1880, when he was replaced by Dr. Willis Clay.

Carl Henning and his wife, Caroline, in whose name the business was conducted, had a store in Beaver Falls. When the railroad came through they moved their store to a shack about a mile and a half east of the present site of Renville. This shack was burned late in 1878, and in 1879 they moved to Renville and located in a shack on the west side of Main street south of what is now the Columbia elevator. Then they erected a brick building south of the elevator on the site of the shack that they occupied when they first moved to the village.

The newly-born village was ambitious enough to start a newspaper in 1879 called the Renville Station Weekly News, with D. C. Wadsworth as publisher. The paper was printed by C. A. Bennett at the office of the Granite Falls Journal. J. T. Brooks, upon his arrival in town in 1880, took charge of the paper and conducted it until 1881, when it was discontinued. The paper under his charge was a sharp critic of local affairs, and at one time **was said to have aroused the wrath and indignation of Dr. Fleischman by rebuking him and some boon companions for creating a disturbance by firing off their pistols promiscuously on the street.**

The village of Renville was incorporated by a special act of the legislature in 1881, and an election was held March 15 at J. T. Brooks' office. J. B. Boyd was chosen as the first president. O. Quamsoe, B. F. Heins and Philip Williams were the first councilmen, and J. T. Brooks was recorder. W. F. Baade was treasurer. This year Judge J. M. Dorman settled in the village to practice law. The town was well supplied now with the different professions and tradesmen, but for a time its growth was slow. The country was still thinly settled and north of the village there was still an almost unbroken prairie. Sacred Heart was ahead of its neighbor to the east and Bird Island surpassed it on the other side. Like most frontier towns, there was a large rough element in the village that kept the little town in a turmoil of fights and brawls. The old-timers have many stories to tell of the pranks and escapades of some of the transient citizens, who made up a large element of the population. The town grew slowly, however, and the influence of the better class of citizens gradually made itself felt and the moral tone of the community grew better with succeeding years.

In 1882, Renville was already a flourishing village. A review of that year gives the following business activities: "The village has a population of about 275, and consists of the following business houses: three general stores, two hardware stores, one millinery and one drug store, one meat market, two hotels, two blacksmith shops, one harness, one shoe, one wagon and paint shop, two saloons, a lumber yard, one real estate and loan office, one lawyer, two physicians; two elevators, capacity about 45,000 bushels."

In 1884 an incident occurred that made a radical change in the development of the surrounding country, and incidentally of the village itself. In that year the land firm of Prins & Koeh bought 35,000 acres of railroad land in Winfield township and in Kandiyohi county. Their agent, P. Haan, located in Olivia in 1885, and in the fall moved to this village. This firm at once commenced to pour trainloads of settlers into the country between Willmar and Renville, and soon peopled the wild prairies with hundreds of thrifty farmers, principally from Holland or of Holland descent, but with a large sprinkling of Swedes and other nationalities. The movement was on a large scale and meant much for the village of Renville, inasmuch as it doubled its trading population and gave it an industrious, sober and prosperous people to supply, where hitherto had been waste lands.

Peter Haan, who, as local agent, played so important a part in this movement, has the following to say in regard to the movement: "The quick development of the western part of Renville county and the southeastern and southern portions of Chippewa and Kandiyohi counties, as far as tributary to Renville, com-

menced in earnest with the year 1885 after the firm of Prins & Koch had bought, in the territory mentioned, about 120,000 acres of railroad and state lands. By means of judicious advertising, land seekers from many eastern states soon came in in great numbers, and only to see this wonderfully fertile and nice lying land was in nineteen cases out of twenty equal to buying. Inside of four years nearly all of the land originally purchased was sold, and a great deal more that was purchased later. The sales commenced at \$8 per acre, soon rising to \$10 and \$12, and by 1890 had reached \$15 and higher. The new-comers who settled north of Renville came for the most part from the states of New York, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, and were representatives of many nationalities. Hollanders and Holland-speaking North Germans were in the majority, but Belgians, Frenchmen, Bohemians, Danes, Swedes, Norwegians and full-blooded Yankees were among the number. They, of course, belonged to different religious denominations, yet nevertheless made agreeable neighbors. Between 1886 and 1896 in this territory the settlers built no less than twelve churches, four Lutheran, three Holland Christian Reformed, two Catholic, two Dutch Reformed and one Methodist Episcopal. They also built in the same period about forty good, substantial schoolhouses, and laid over thirty bridges over the small rivers and creeks which cut through the land, besides draining it almost to perfection. The great bulk of the original settlers came from Europe and belonged to the third or working class over there. When they came here they had as a rule very little money and some of them were quite poor, but now all are independent, many well to do, and not a few may be called rich. May not a man, who came here only thirty years ago with a wife and ten children, almost without a penny to call his own, but with a debt of \$700, to settle on a rented farm, be called rich if it can be truly stated that that same man is now worth at least \$30,000. There are not many who have been so successful, but there are plenty of them who may be valued at between ten and twenty thousand dollars."

This big influx of thrifty farmers had a marked influence upon the struggling village of Renville. In 1887 the village was again represented by a newspaper, the Renville Weekly News, published by C. L. Loraine, then publishing a paper at Bird Island, and for a time edited by E. M. Clay, now a physician here. The town began to be awake to its possibilities. M. J. Dowling, at that time professor in the two-room school, had succeeded in arousing interest and enthusiasm in the cause of education, Renville's powers on the baseball field had begun to advertise the town throughout the state. The population began to increase, and in 1888 a building boom was struck.

In 1888 a new four-room schoolhouse was built to replace the two-room building of 1882.

In 1889 the Norwegian and German Lutheran congregations put up a handsome church structure. Lee and Johnson built the brick building now occupied by the F. A. Schafer furniture store, the Adolph Mandel general store, Mrs. Carl Henning put up a brick block south of the elevator on Main street, Mason Brothers erected a flour mill and W. H. Gold put in a lumber yard.

The growing town spirit was shown by an attempt made at this time to capture the county seat. Bird Island got ahead of Renville and secured an election and was signally defeated, but for the first time the future metropolis of the county had shown public enterprise and enthusiasm over the town's future.

The Renville State Bank was organized during the period by O'Connor Bros., and this enterprising firm was playing an important part in the development of the village. In 1892 the second bank, the Security Bank, came into existence. Every line of business was prospering, and in the five years between 1890 and 1895 the population of the village nearly doubled.

The boom period was marked by a series of occurrences between 1891 and 1894 which were looked upon as appalling disasters at the time, but which, in the light of later developments, proved to be beneficial to the town. In November, 1891, the building, originally built by J. B. Boyd, but at that time occupied by Mayer Wolpert's general store, caught fire and was entirely consumed. The family of John O'Connor lived upstairs over the store, and they barely escaped from the burning building. The building was one of the largest in town, and its destruction was regarded as a great loss, but the following year it was replaced with a two-story, double front brick block that was a source of pride to the town. The O'Connor block, as it was called is now occupied by the State Bank and the opera house. That year saw the installation of a waterworks plant, the fire calling attention forcibly to the fact that the town did not possess adequate fire protection. The bonds of the village were issued to erect a water tower that gives sufficient pressure to enable the firemen to effectually cope with any blaze. Feb. 5, 1893, another fire occurred that threatened at one time to wipe one side of Main street out of existence. It was at midnight that the alarm of fire was turned in. The firemen turned out with promptness, but found that the waterworks were useless, having been allowed to freeze up. There was nothing to do but confine the fire as much as possible. The blaze originated in K. Goeman Pott's hardware store, and before the flames died out that place, S. N. Olson's building, Gold's office, the butcher shop and the millinery store had been destroyed. It was in 1894 that the town

suffered the severest loss in destroyed property. On Wednesday afternoon, June 27, a tornado came up from the southwest, forming in plain sight but a few miles from town. When nearing town, the ominous looking funnel dropped to the earth, sweeping a pathway through the fields until it struck Herman Hachman's residence in the southwest corner of the village. The building was torn loose from the floor and foundation and smashed into debris. Mrs. Hachman was terribly injured, but managed to survive her wounds. The storm center passed diagonally through the village park, tearing out the band stand, dodged around the Brooks and Lien residences, but tore out the barns on both places, and then swept against the Norwegian Lutheran church with full fury. The church building was literally torn to pieces by the savage force of the storm. F. H. Berning's residence was also completely wiped out of existence, and hardly a shred of the household articles was ever found. Fortunately, neither Mr. Berning nor his wife were at home at the time. The last obstruction in the path of the storm was the four-room school house, just shortly before the voters had decided to build an addition to accommodate the increased attendance. The twisting fury of the wind in a minute's time destroyed all necessity of an addition. The big four-room building was raised up and then crushed into its own basement with an irresistible force. On another page will be found illustrations of the school house and other buildings after the tornado had passed over them. Fortunately, the district carried \$3,000 tornado insurance, and plans were at once prepared for a larger and more modern building. By fall an eight-room building was finished at a cost of \$12,000. The members of the Norwegian Lutheran congregation suffered a heavier loss, in that they had no insurance to recompense them, and were obliged to begin anew. They bravely started the work, however, and now a larger and better building occupies the spot where the storm passed in 1894.

For a time the Spanish war interrupted the peaceful calm that rested on the busy village. Several young men from the village joined Company H of the 14th Minnesota in April, 1898, and served with the regiment during its term of service. The patriotic people of the village were stirred to great heights of enthusiasm and gave their representatives a rousing farewell, and throughout the summer continually sent them reminders of their good will. In the fall the regiment returned to be mustered out, but many of the Renville delegation were forced to spend many weeks in the hospitals of the South and at home fighting the typhoid and malaria contracted in Chickamauga. Sergeant J. D. Barnard came home on a sick furlough only to succumb to the deadly fever, and was buried by his sad-hearted comrades in the village cemetery.

Since 1898 the growth of Renville has been rapid and constant.

The population, reaching 720 in 1895, increased to 1,075 in 1900, and is now over the 1,250 mark.

The city of Renville was incorporated in 1906.

The last officers of the village were: President, A. A. Bennett; trustees, A. R. Holmberg, L. E. Lien, Frank Rudolph; recorder, C. N. Matson; treasurer, H. N. Stabeck. These officers held over under the city charter until March 20, 1906, when the first city officers took charge. They were: Mayor, Timothy O'Connor; clerk and municipal judge, C. N. Matson; treasurer, H. N. Stabeck; justice of the peace, F. W. Mason; aldermen at large, W. J. Ashley and W. A. Lumley; alderman from first ward, Frank Rudolph; alderman from second ward, Frank Rudolph; alderman from third ward, J. R. Butters.

A distinctive feature of the city is the Renville Commercial Club building, initiated and financed through the Commercial Club of this city. The size of the building is 40x90 feet, two stories high and full basement. The cost was \$20,000. On the main floor is located A. H. Riedler's barber shop and the post-office. In the rear is the public rest room, and the sumptuous quarters of the Renville Commercial Club. The upper floor is devoted to offices. The law offices of L. D. Barnard, county attorney, and L. M. Carlson occupy the front of the building, on the south side, while Dr. N. L. Johnson, dentist, occupies the front rooms on the north side. On the same floor, Judge Richard T. Daly has his chambers. Other offices are occupied by Harold Baker, attorney; the Northwestern Telephone Exchange; Drs. Edward M. Clay and I. R. Maereklein. In the basement is the banquet hall and kitchen, shower baths and a pool room.

Renville has made a steady growth and has kept pace with the settlement and development of the country surrounding. Forward is always the watchword of her citizens. Nearly every line of business is represented here. The banks are a barometer by which the business of a community is gauged. The three banks of Renville as in their reports to the bank examiners on September 2, 1915, showed an aggregate business of \$970,183.77.

Heins & Co., as mentioned, started a hardware store on the corner about the time the village was first organized. The management saw very few changes in that time, until last summer, when E. H. Heins retired from the firm and was succeeded by T. B. McIlraith. The store has an ideal location and carries a large stock of hardware and machinery.

Charley Cronek, the tailor, is one of the old-timers and is kept busy plying the needle early and late. P. Haan is in the real estate and insurance business. He is one of the oldest in this line in the city or county.

A. Kragenbring in October, 1911, opened up a clothing and shoe store in a small way in the Kiecker building. Two years or so ago he moved into the Yescheek block and now has a neat, up-to-date store and enjoys a good patronage. G. H. Swinney opened a bakery here in March, 1914. He also has a restaurant in connection. A. Mutta purchased the Palace Restaurant of C. O. Sveiven in July, 1914.

A. A. Doerr started in the hardware and plumbing business March 1, 1913. The firm is now Doerr & Dunwell. Mr. Doerr is a first-class plumber and gives this branch of the business his personal attention.

The Farmers' Elevator Co. was organized twenty-five years ago. It started in a small way with one horse for power in elevating the grain. It is now well equipped, built of concrete and capable of housing the capacity of 45,000 bushels of grain. It has as its stockholders some of the best farmers in the country tributary to Renville. Its manager, A. R. Holmberg, has been at the head of its business department the past ten years.

McGregor Bros. & Co. put in a lumber yard in 1886 and have been in business here ever since. August Wilcken has been with the firm for twenty-one years, and has been the manager the past fourteen years. S. A. Smith & Son started in the hardware and machinery business in July, 1912. This firm is doing a good business. They are agents for the Ford and Maxwell cars.

In 1908 G. A. Lumley purchased the H. A. Smith interest in the furniture store and eventually became owner of the entire business by buying out his partners. Last summer in company with O. R. Smith he took over the undertaking business formerly conducted by Heins & Co.

J. F. Wein opened an exclusive grocery store in 1905.

W. H. Gold & Co. started a lumber yard in Renville about the year 1888. About twelve years ago it was purchased by the Jas. A. Smith Lumber Co. Nineteen years ago L. E. Lambert took charge of the yard as manager, and has remained in that position ever since. It may be said of Mr. Lambert that he remained manager of a business longer than any other citizen of Renville, consecutively.

H. D. Judd, late in the winter purchased the moving picture business. The Crystal Theatre is a popular play house and is well patronized.

F. A. Williams took possession of the Central Hotel in 1907. At that time it was in a run down condition. Mr. Williams at once commenced making improvements and had the building rebuilt. He now has a most excellent hostelry with ample accommodations.

The Renville Roller Mills are one of the early institutions of Renville, and the town and community round about were fortunate

in having easy access to the mill when in need of flour or feed. In the early nineties the Renville Mill Company was organized with W. J. Ashley, manager. Along with the creamery it is one of the best assets of a town. Some two years ago A. A. Moline, a practical millwright and expert miller, was taken into the firm and is head miller.

The department store of Bottge & Hassinger is the oldest now in business in the city. It was established in 1885 in the Rolson building, and when the O'Connor block was built it occupied the room where the drug store is and when the Dale block was built it was moved to its present location. When H. J. and J. H. Dale retired to enter the banking business, the two junior partners, P. J. Bottge and M. L. Hassinger, purchased their interest in the store. They carry a complete stock of goods in their line and enjoy a good patronage.

Olson Bros. opened their general store here in 1906 in the Lee block, where they remained until about a year ago when they moved into the Humboldt building, vacated by Mayor Wolpert. J. S. Olson has had charge.

A. Mandel is one of the latest to launch out for himself in the general store business. He was not a stranger when he started in 1895 as the head clerk in Mayor Wolpert's department store. In 1913 he opened with a stock of goods in the Kieker building. This was soon too small for his increasing business. When Olson Bros. moved, about the beginning of the year, he moved into the Lee block. W. Sanders & Co. are successors to one of the oldest hardware firms in the city. They purchased the store in 1908 and have built up a good trade. At that time, O. J. Dahle, who had been an employee in the store, became a member of the firm.

The Star Farmer Co., publishers of Renville Star Farmer, W. A. Reid, editor. It has a large and increasing circulation, thoroughly covers the field, making it a most excellent advertising medium.

The Renville County Independent will issue its first publication March 30, 1916, with Carl Carlson and Warren Brandt as editors.

Al. Riedler is the oldest barber in point of service in the city. He has just moved into the new commercial building. Werner & Packer are in the meat market business. The Renville Produce Co., A. S. Brugman, manager, does a flourishing business. Orchardist and fruit grower, G. A. Anderson, living three miles west of town, raised a thousand bushels of apples for the market this year. Ogren & Peterson do a good business in grain and coal at their elevator. There are four line elevators doing business here. The postmaster is W. L. Poseley. There are five mail routes radiating from this point. Fred Scott purchased the barber shop of Werner Peterson some two years ago. H. M. Lentz recently

purchased the jewelry store from J. O. Westby and will soon go into a new building. J. O. Westby, in retiring from the jewelry business, has taken up the sale of pianos, and expects to make that his specialty in the future. C. A. Kronlökken is proprietor of a garage. It is large, well equipped and absolutely fireproof. Repairing is a specialty with him.

The Minnesota Valley Power Company, of Montevideo, installed electricity here two years ago. Business houses, dwellings and streets are brilliantly lighted by electricity.

S. I. Snortum opened up a variety store recently and is having a good trade. Draymen, H. Hogenson, Anderson & Jordet, Harley McBroom. A. F. Leistikow, restaurant. Bert Jones, restaurant. F. A. Schafer opened up a furniture store in the Lee block last spring. J. M. Huff recently purchased the photographic studio. G. J. Lee, shoes, dry goods and notions. Yoek Bros., shippers of pressed hay and straw. Wm. Shufft and Ernest Schulz, stone masons.

There is a harness shop, with Emil Swenson as proprietor. H. Goetz is proprietor of the pool hall. W. A. Goetz, recently from Minneapolis, established a barber shop in the building occupied by the pool hall. H. J. Molitor, proprietor of a drug store, is successor to G. O. Torgersen. John Harmon, tile ditcher, does considerable work. The West Hotel, conducted by Albert Zaske the past two years, is a good hostelry. Blacksmiths, C. F. Diekow, G. A. Beltz, Carl Zabel, Ernst Beltz. Painters, John Walser, Hans Boeck, J. H. Engelking. Contractors and builders, E. M. White, O. V. and Ed. Anderson, L. B. Weleh, O. A. Berg. Livery barns, Blacklock & Bachelder, Anderson & Jordet. Millinery stores, Mrs. Bedeley, Miss Mickelson.

Physicians, Dr. E. M. Clay, J. W. Preisinger, L. T. Francis, I. R. Maereklein. Dentist, Dr. N. L. Johnson. Attorneys, L. D. Barnard, Harold Baker and L. M. Carlson.

BIRD ISLAND VILLAGE.

The extension of the Hastings & Dakota Railway from Glencoe, along its westernmost station, to Montevideo in 1878, caused many new towns to spring up along its path. The majority of these villages were of slow growth. Not so Bird Island. From an almost unbroken prairie it sprang up, almost full-grown, into a thriving and attractive village. As a division point of the new railroad, it presented an immediate appearance of activity and business which it has never lost. Trade that had previously gone to Atwater, thirty miles to the north, or to Beaver Falls, then the county seat, in the south, now came wending its way to Bird Island. Men of means were attracted to the new site and the growth of the village was remarkably rapid.

The story of the early settlement of the farms in the neighborhood is told elsewhere by J. M. Bowler. The land appeared to be extremely fertile and its tillage promised immediate and bounteous reward to the new settlers. About one and a half to two miles to the south and west, in section 15, surrounded by sloughs, lay an island whose area extended over sixty acres. An island on an otherwise unbroken prairie may seem somewhat anomalous to the newer generations; but there in reality lay an attractive island on which grew unchecked by prairie fires tall trees—oaks, maples, hackberry—a veritable paradise for thousands of the feathered natives. From this, bird island, the township, and later the village, took its name. Settlers came from a distance to get their share of its useful and much needed timber. Since the building of the big drainage ditch, the "island" has disappeared and only valuable farm land remains.

Bird Island was platted in July, 1878, on land owned by the Bird Island Townsite Company. The plat was refiled Jan. 3, 1914.

John A. Johnson, it is said, hauled the first timber onto the townsite of Bird Island, taking the load from Glencoe.

The first store was opened by J. W. Ladd in the fall of 1878 and later he built an elevator. C. C. Ladd started the first lumber yard in the same year. A. H. Reed & Co. (Axel Reed, Jos. Richardson and W. M. Hollbrook) opened up a general merchandise store and the following year built an elevator. Conklin & Clark conducted the first hardware store. J. W. Fewer and Michael Murphy were the first village blacksmiths.

In 1879 Dr. J. W. Barnard established a drug store; the Renville County Bank opened for business with Mathew Donohue in the president's office; a hotel was begun by P. J. Martell, who sold his interests at the end of a year to Capt. J. A. King. In the same year two saloons came into existence, managed by Dana Hodgdon and Andrew Anderson, commonly called "the Elegant Swede."

The first school was taught near Bowler's in District 64 by Miss Stone, daughter of E. D. Stone.

The Bird Island Post was established by Wesley Moran in August, 1879. The Bird Island Blizzard began its career in April, 1881, with J. M. Bowler as editor, and J. W. Ladd, publisher. Bird Island postoffice was opened in 1878 (J. F. Bowler, postmaster), on section 26, but was moved shortly to the store of J. W. Ladd.

Other early interests were: George Cronley, 1879, grocery; Thomas Libby, Merchant's Hotel, 1881; N. C. Little, 1879-80; Dr. F. L. Puffer, 1881; O. A. Strom, drngs, 1881; A. W. Stone, blacksmith, 1879; W. P. Dinon, Bird Island House, 1879; A. W. Hagadon & Reynolds' meat market, 1881; E. H. Keenan, hardware.

Village lots in Bird Island were first assessed in 1879. The principal owners were the C. M. & St. P. R. R. Co. and the Town-site Company. Those who had already secured lots were: F. A. Sherwood, lot 4, block 28; D. Feeder, lot 8, block 30; Conklin & Clark, lot 4, block 41; F. Miller, lot 9, block 41; F. Hodgdon, lot 5, block 42, lot 8, block 42; M. R. Murphy, lot 7, block 42; J. W. Ladd, lot 12, block 42; H. McCurry, lots 7 and 10, block 43; A. H. Reed, lots 9 and 12, block 43; John Anderson, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, block 44; Donahue & Paine, lot 5, block 44; D. J. Deasy, lot 8, block 44; H. L. Miller, lot 10, block 44; Moore & Canfield, lot 11, block 44; G. E. Bowler, lot 12, block 44; D. S. Hall, lot 1, block 45; J. P. O'Shea, lots 4 and 5, block 45; Wm. Winnegge, lot 9, block 45; Mary O'Shea, lot 12, block 45.

J. M. Bowler furnishes the following list of the business firms of Bird Island in 1879: J. W. Ladd, general store, postoffice, elevator; A. H. Reed & Co., general store, elevator; Hodgdon Bros., general store; Conklin & Clark, hardware; Ladd & Bowler, farm machinery; Chas. F. Arper, farm Machinery; Capt. John King, Merchants hotel and bar; Wm. P. Dinon, Bird Island house and bar; H. L. Miller, furniture and repairing; George Crouley, grocery; J. W. Fewer, blacksmith; Michael Murphy, blacksmith; Chas. C. Ladd, lumber yard; N. C. Little, lumber yard; Chas. Humboldt, livery; Jerry O'Shea, saloon; Henry Hall, druggist; Levi E. Sherwood, drayman; Thomas Commisky, drayman.

The village grew rapidly. By 1882 over 500 people were living within its confines. It had three general stores, one grocery, two hardware and two drug stores, two millineries, one furniture store, one harness shop, one wagon shop, three blacksmiths, one shoe shop, one paint shop, one barber shop, three hotels, two meat markets, two saloons, two lumber yards, three physicians, two lawyers, one bank, two elevators.

In 1885 the village of Bird Island was the metropolis of Renville county. It had a population of 567, which was larger than the combined population of Olivia, Renville and Hector. Hector was the second largest town with a population of 235, and Sacred Heart third, with a population of 207. Bird Island discarded her swaddling clothes and assumed metropolitan airs at an early age. Being a railroad division point she had an advantage over her sister towns; men of means invested there, and induced others to engage in business at that point. She drew trade for many miles and her growth for the first few years was phenomenal.

But the fifteen-year county seat war had the effect of depleting her treasury and discouraging her business men for a time. One of the heavy expenses was a building, erected by the citizens of Bird Island, and offered free to the county as a court house in the event of the removal to that place. The building

was later used for the high and graded schools in that village, and was recently burned.

Among the old residents are Dr. F. L. Puffer, W. H. Jewell, Chas. Kenning, H. V. Poore, James Hurley, Frank Poseley, Jos. Feeter, Col. Jos. Haggett, Axel Richardson, Chas. H. Sherwood, S. Salter, W. P. Dinon, J. M. Olson, John Fewer, Geo. H. Bowler, Christ Boehm, Jess. Carney, Philip Johnson, L. L. Tinnes and others.

In the fall of 1887 the village received a rather serious setback by the removal of the railroad division point to Montevideo. Over thirty families of railroad employees moved from Bird Island. This checked the growth for a short while, but the village soon recovered and has made steady progress since.

Bird Island has a population of about 1,000 people and is a desirable residence and business center in every particular. The village improvements are especially attractive. A slightly city hall was erected in 1906. Aside from serving the usual village purposes, this building has a splendid auditorium for meetings and entertainments. The sewer system already covers the main street and an extension is now being constructed at a cost of between \$10,000 and \$12,000. The waterworks system is adequate, with a large tower, an artesian well 112 feet deep, dug about ten years ago, and power furnished by an electric motor recently put in.

The schools under Prof. J. W. Pettersen are of the best, embracing, in addition to the usual high school work, courses in manual training, agricultural and normal training. The fair grounds, where fairs have been conducted for some thirty-five years are of material advantage in increasing the importance of the village. A newspaper, the Bird Island Union, is another factor in the progress of the community. A good moving picture theater furnishes excellent diversion.

As a trading point, Bird Island offers many inducements to the farmers living in the neighboring rural districts. At one time the village handled the most freight between Minneapolis and Granite Falls.

The Masonic order, the Eastern Star chapter, the United Workmen, the Modern Woodmen, the Modern Brotherhood, the Royal Neighbors, the Hibernians, the Catholic Foresters, and the St. Joseph Society, are well represented here.

The churches are all prosperous. Rev. Gilbert Oppen, of Renville, serves the Norwegian Lutheran church, while Rev. Anthony Scholzen serves the strong Catholic church. The Methodist Episcopal church, organized about 1881 by Rev. John A. McDonald, and the Baptist church, organized about 1880, and united under the pastorate of the Rev. I. Richard Melwaldt, and services are held at the Methodist church.

The Bird Island Commercial Club was organized in the early days of 1913 and has been an important factor in the social life of the village. The rooms are well furnished and form a popular social center. The officers are: President, H. W. Mielke; vice-president, W. F. Lammers; secretary, Paul Kohlbe; treasurer, Christ Boehme.

The Renville County Electric Co., with a large plant at Bird Island, and with headquarters in Minneapolis, was organized as the Central Minnesota Light & Power Co., Oct. 1, 1913, with a capital of \$200,000. The Bird Island plant is a large one, thoroughly well equipped. For eight years the streets of Bird Island were illuminated with acetylene gas. They are now lighted with some fifty electric lights, and the twenty ornamental light posts add much to the beauty of the Bird Island streets. W. R. Rutledge is president of the company and H. B. Rutledge the secretary. J. H. Yarnell is the superintendent. In addition to its local services, the Bird Island plant furnishes a current for Hector, Buffalo Lake, Stewart and Olivia, and will probably supply Danube in the near future.

The Bird Island Ladies' Improvement Society was organized May 20, 1910. The first officers were Mrs. H. A. Puffer, president; Mrs. J. F. Lorenz, vice-president; Mrs. H. C. Sherwood, secretary; Mrs. J. E. Essen, treasurer. Mrs. Essen resigned in October, 1910, and was succeeded by Mrs. Herman Koch. In May, 1911, the following officers were elected: Mrs. H. A. Puffer, president; Mrs. O. A. Neitzel, vice-president; Mrs. Frank Murray, secretary; and Mrs. Herman Koch, treasurer. Mrs. Puffer and Mrs. Koch resigned their offices in October and Mrs. H. C. Sherwood was elected president and Mabel Timmes, treasurer. In May, 1912, the following officers were elected: Mrs. H. C. Sherwood, president; Mrs. O. A. Neitzel, vice-president; Mrs. Frank Murray, secretary, and Mabel Timmes, treasurer. In May, 1913, the following officers were elected: Mrs. F. A. Baarsch, president; Mrs. John J. Desmond, vice-president; Lottie Sherwood, secretary, and Mabel Timmes, treasurer. In May, 1914, the officers were the same as in 1913, with the exception of Florence Puffer as treasurer in place of Mabel Timmes. In November, Lottie Sherwood resigned as secretary and Mrs. J. W. Petterson was elected. The officers in 1915 were: Mrs. John J. Desmond, president; Mrs. J. G. Lyon, vice-president; Mrs. J. W. Petterson, secretary, and Florence Puffer, treasurer.

The purpose of the society is to develop and beautify the public park. This park was presented to the public by the railroad when the village was platted, but nothing was done to improve it until the ladies became interested. The improvement society secured Max Pfaender, landscape gardener, now of New Ulm, to draw up a set of plans, and these plans now hang on the wall at

the city hall. Yearly the ladies do something toward bringing the park to its final perfection in accordance with these plans, and it is expected that in time the park will be one of the best in this part of the country.

The Bird Island Roller Mills constitute one of Bird Island's important industries. The company makes the excellent and well-known "Golden Cut" brand, engages in the general flour-milling business, manufactures flour and feed, and deals in wheat and grain. The building was erected some thirty years ago, and was then two stories high. Another story has now been added, so that there are now three stories and the basement. About 1900, F. W. Baarsch bought the mill from W. E. Coles, Jr. The company was incorporated in 1901, with F. W. Baarsch as president, F. A. Baarsch as secretary and Otto Baarsch as treasurer. The capital stock of the company is \$20,000. The present officers are: President, Mrs. F. W. Baarsch; secretary and manager, W. F. Lammers; treasurer, Christ Jenson. The mill has a capacity of about seventy-five barrels a day.

The history of the Bird Island postoffice is an interesting one. The first postmaster was J. M. Bowler in 1878. He resigned and J. W. Ladd was appointed. Since then the postmasters have been: 1884, C. L. Lorraine; 1886, F. Hodgdon; 1888, Albert Brown; 1890, L. E. Sherwood; 1894, D. J. Deasy; 1898, I. S. Gerald (resigned); 1900, Amund Dahl; Sept. 10, 1906, J. H. Feeter; Nov. 1, 1915, Joseph Haggett. Rural routes 1 and 2 were established in 1900, and route 3 some six years later. G. H. Bowler, the first carrier on Route 1, is still serving.

The village was incorporated under special act of the legislature, approved March 4, 1881, the site being located on land owned by the Bird Island Town Site Company, in the southeast quarter of section 14, several additions being made later. The following officers were appointed to serve until their successors were elected on the first Tuesday in April following and duly qualified: Mathew Donohue, president; W. M. Holbrook, J. W. Ladd, Charles C. Ladd, J. W. Barnard, and E. H. Keenan, councillors; D. D. Williams, recorder; T. M. Paine, treasurer; Wesley Moran and Fred. Hodgdon, justices; J. H. Feeter, street commissioner; W. H. Lewis, marshal; G. H. Megquier, attorney.

At the meeting of March 26, 1881, this council ordered the first annual election to be held at the schoolhouse in District 64. At this election on April 5, following, these officers were elected: M. Donohue, president; W. P. Dinon, J. W. Ladd, R. C. Eddington, W. M. Holbrook, and M. R. Murphy, councillors; W. P. Fowle, recorder; T. M. Paine, treasurer; J. M. Bowler and C. F. Arper, justices. The council at its first meeting appointed F. A. Merrill village attorney; J. H. Feeter street commissioner; W. H. Lewis,

marshal; Hiram Sherwood, pound master; Dinon, Eddington, and Ladd, together with Attorney Merrill, were appointed a committee to draw up a set of rules. And the recorder "was asked to request the county treasurer to pay into the village treasury that portion of the liquor fines collected from Bird Island since organization." The village was reincorporated in 1905.

The present officers of the village are: President, John M. Olson; recorder, C. A. Strom; treasurer, Herman Mielke; purchasing committee, John M. Olson, C. A. Strom; street committee, Jess. Carney, Frank Portly, A. J. Richardson; board of health, Dr. R. C. Adams, Oscar Johnson, Ingwar Ibsen; cemetery board, Henry Arnsdorf, W. T. Bower, J. H. Feeter; park board, Howard A. Puffer, Paul Kolbe.

BUFFALO LAKE VILLAGE.

Buffalo Lake is a well-laid-out village and has waterworks, sewer, electric lights (put in late in 1914), a white way, a park, a bandstand, two banks and a newspaper. It is situated on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, seventy-five miles west of the Twin Cities, which afford a good and easily accessible market. The town is surrounded by the richest of agricultural countries. The prosperity of the business enterprises, while bespeaking the progressive enterprise of the business men, reflects also the prosperity and thrift of the farming community round about. As a trading and marketing center, Buffalo Lake serves the needs of the farmers over a large area and has a reputation as a first-class business town. The magnitude of the business conducted by the several firms in different lines, the prosperous and business-like appearance of their places of business, their up-to-date stocks, their courteous treatment of customers and, in fact, the whole business spirit of the town is pleasing and attractive. With two banks, two large general stores, two hardware and implement firms, a grocery, a clothing store, harness shop, furniture store, jeweler and photographer, a sanitary meat market, two garages, drug store, restaurant, hotel, livery, feed mill and flour depot, two lumber yards, a new and model creamery, two produce stores, a well equipped blacksmith and machine shop, three privately owned grain elevators and a farmers' house that carries a sideline of machinery, there are no business needs of the farming community that cannot be well cared for. The village has an excellent school that includes in its curriculum two years of high school work and is successfully presided over by a corps of five teachers, of whom Jos. E. Reichert is superintendent. The size of the classes that graduate annually on the strength of state credits received is sufficient testimony of the thoroughness of the work the school is doing.

There are three churches, the Methodist Episcopal, of which Rev. Allison Barnard is the recently appointed pastor; Zions Lutheran church, which has been under the pastorate of Rev. R. A. Schmidt for a great many years, and the Evangelical church, of which Rev. Max Wordelman is the present pastor. Besides the churches, schools and business places there are church and other societies, clubs, a village band, a baseball association, and the like. The Odd Fellows, the Woodmen, the Royal Neighbors, the Modern Brotherhood, the Sons of Herman and the auxiliary of the latter, have lodges here. There is an active Commercial Club that takes in hand the management of all fairs and celebrations and public attractions of a general nature. Then, too, the Commercial Club is a sort of standing committee of the whole to see that municipal matters that need attending to are not neglected. The streets are kept always in good repair, clean and attractive concrete sidewalks in every part of the village and numerous other improvements that help to make a village an attractive place to visit or to live in. There is a complete system of sewers and municipal water supply, and an electric service, which furnishes current for lighting the streets, business places and residences as well as for power for those who choose to avail themselves of it, with all the modern conveniences hitherto found only in the larger cities. Buffalo Lake is a pleasant and congenial place to live; wideawake, progressive and thrifty.

One of the attractive features of the village is the White Way, consisting of twelve ornamental posts, on each of which is a cluster of five large lamps. This White Way gives to the village a truly metropolitan appearance and is a tribute to the progressive spirit of the inhabitants. The village water supply is received from two wells about 400 feet deep. The village owns both a gasoline and a steam engine and the water system is excellent.

One of the first questions strangers ask is one that is prompted by the name of the town itself, "Where is the lake?" A half-mile north of the town is a small lake from which the village derived its name. In the early days this was a stopping place for troops and stage wagons crossing from Fort Ridgely on the Minnesota river to Hutchinson, on the edge of the timber settlements. There are still, on the south bank of the lake, traces of where the soldiers had one of their outposts after the massacre. The lake itself, though small, is picturesque and attractive.

The two best lakes of the county are five miles north and east, Preston Lake and Lake Allie. Beautiful lakes they are, indeed; deep, clear water, firm, sandy bottom, with just a fringe of native trees along the shores to mark their boundaries. The lakes are about the same size, each about two miles across.

Turning again to the agricultural phases of the country, we find therein the foundation for the prosperity of the villages and towns and their business enterprises. From Buffalo Lake, five rural mail delivery routes extend, making a total of about 140 miles. Besides the delivery of mail, the country is strung with telephone lines till the farm house without a phone is the rare exception.

The fire department is well equipped and does excellent work whenever the occasion arises. Peter Fischer is the chief, Fred C. Eiselein the secretary and Frank Prelvitz the treasurer. The company has a chemical engine, hook and ladder, hose cart, and other equipment.

There have been three important fires in Buffalo Lake, but outside of these the village has been remarkably free from fire losses. The Buffalo Lake Manufacturing & Supply Co., operated for a few years as a foundry and machine shop, and was burned Oct. 5, 1900, entailing a loss of about \$9,000. The Monson & Gerber grain elevator and warehouse was burned Jan. 30, 1901, entailing a loss of some \$8,000. The O. T. Ramsland & Sons' general store was burned Dec. 31, 1904, the loss being estimated at some \$6,000.

The mill has been an important factor in the growth of Buffalo Lake. The mill was started by Green & Dahms, who moved from Biscay, near Hutchinson, in the nineties. They sold to Haag & Flor, of New Ulm. Flor sold to John Noonan and the firm became Haag & Noonan. Haag & Noonan sold to J. E. Stiles and August Voeks and the firm became Stiles & Voeks. Voeks sold to Claus Grelk and the firm became Stiles & Grelk. Otto Grelk entered the firm and the name was changed to Grelk & Son. Next John Lockway obtained an interest and the firm became Grelk & Lockway. Then the Grelk interests were sold to Michael Lehrer, of Springfield, and the firm became Lockway & Lehrer. This company operated it for a long period. It is now owned by the Berry Brothers.

Centering at Buffalo Lake are three farmers' associations which have been of much benefit to the community. The oldest is the Buffalo Lake Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co. The risks it carried last year aggregated nearly two million dollars, according to the report submitted by the secretary, Frank Wallner. Next, there is the Equity Elevator. This organization deals in grain, fuel, farm machinery, etc. The third, the Buffalo Lake Equity Stock Shippers' Association, has handled for two years past practically all the stock shipped from this place. To this list might well be added the Boon Lake Co-operative Creamery Co., which has been a signal success through the several years of its existence.

The Buffalo Lake Industrial Mercantile & Trading Co. flourished for a while. G. K. Gilbert foreclosed the mortgage, and the elevator was later demolished.

The Buffalo Lake Farmers' Elevator Co. was incorporated in 1906. The first officers were: President, M. B. Foster; vice-president, Darwin S. Hall; secretary, F. G. Nellerroe; treasurer, Eugene Eiselein. The first directors were: M. B. Foster, John Keitel, J. A. Burgstahler, William Fluck, Eugene Eiselein, J. R. Landy, B. F. Sheppard, D. S. Hall and F. G. Nellerroe. The building is now occupied by the Equity & Trading Co.

The Buffalo Lake Equity & Trading Co. is one of the leading institutions of Buffalo Lake. The latest annual meeting was held Jan. 15, 1916. The annual report on the business done, through the association during the past year showed a considerable increase and indicates that the association is in a prosperous and thriving condition. A total of 100 cars of stock were handled for the year as against 74 in the year previous. Though the fact that most of the hogs shipped this year were lighter than a year ago reduced the relative gain in weight from what the number of cars would indicate, there was, however, a very substantial gain in gross weights. Given in round figures, the association handled stock to the value of \$16,000. Of this, approximately \$10,000 was paid over to the farmers who shipped. The balance went for freight, commissions, and other expenses.

The following were elected directors: F. B. Judd, Brookfield; G. C. Henke, Hector; John Klucas, Grafton; Theodore Byhoffer, Boon Lake; Fred Henschke, Martinsburg; N. L. Monson, Preston Lake; A. M. Anderson, at large. The directors met and chose as officers, F. B. Judd, president; John Klucas, vice-president; N. L. Monson, secretary and treasurer.

For several years after the railroad came through, the present site of Buffalo Lake remained a marsh with no indication of a village. Trains stopped at Monson's Crossing, not far away, to let off passengers bound for the locality. At that time John C. Riebe owned a farm here. As a reward, it is said, for work done in connection with the county seat contest, the railroad company agreed to plat a village here. The village was accordingly platted in 1881 and named from the body of water some half-mile away. That year, F. C. Hamilton opened a place of refreshment on lot 9, block 11.

Early in 1882, John C. Riebe, who owned the farm home not far away, erected the present Buffalo Lake Hotel on lots 11 and 12, block 11. This was sold afterward to Wm. Goebel. It was conducted by the Goebel family until the spring of 1915, when Mrs. Goebel, the widow, retired from active life. Soon after the hotel was put up, J. E. Lewis opened a general store on lot 18, block 11. He disposed of the place to C. A. Peterson. The build-

ing, now moved to lot 6, block 11, is now occupied by E. W. Rebstock, druggist.

Late in 1882, Fred C. Riebe opened a place of refreshment on lot 12, block 10. This place developed into a hardware store and was destroyed by fire. Fred C. Riebe, a man with a wooden leg, was a notable character. From here he went to West St. Paul and there conducted a boarding house. Then he went to Cripple Creek, Col., where he met his death.

Village lots in Buffalo Lake were first assessed in 1882. The principal owner was D. A. Riebe. Those who had already secured lots were: Mrs. H. Hayden, lot 10, block 10; Geo. Painter, lot 18, block 10; J. E. Lewis, lots 17 and 18, block 11, lot 1, block 12.

About 1884, Charles and Louis Pretre opened a general store on lot 8, block 11. Walter and Henry Fauss bought the place. Henry Fauss sold his share to Charles Fauss. Walter Fauss also sold his share to Charles Fauss, who, in 1890, started a hardware store.

Ole Olson had the first blacksmith shop. He sold to John S. Fisher, who conducted the shop on lot 18, block 10.

Henry Mansfield conducts a small store on lot 13, block 10.

August Klitzke started a wagon shop on lot 17, block 10.

The depot was erected in 1882 and soon thereafter the St. Croix Lumber Co., with Fred Krueger as manager, opened what is now the Stearns Lumber Co. yard, and Constant Steinkopf and John C. Riebe started buying grain in a flat house, where the Monarch Lumber Co. is now located. Krueger married Laura Riebe, a daughter of John C. Riebe. He left here in 1893 and located in South Stillwater.

A German Lutheran church, the present building, was erected in the early days, and a parish schoolhouse was erected back of the church. The story of the church is told elsewhere.

R. E. Sell who, until recently, was the oldest settler still in business, arrived in 1891 and opened a meat market on lot 14, block 10, where he was located until early in 1915. When he arrived, nearly all the business was in block 10. In block 11 were the hotel, a store and a club house. The street between the two blocks was a mud hole and there were no sidewalks.

F. G. Neller-moe, the banker, has the record of antedating all the men now engaged in business in Buffalo Lake. Peter Fischer, the blacksmith, and John Quast, the undertaker and furniture dealer, were here when Mr. Neller-moe arrived, but were not engaged in their present business.

Buffalo Lake was incorporated in April, 1893. The first officers were: President, John C. Riebe; councilmen, C. A. Peterson, A. C. Stucke and August Klitzke; recorder, Fred Krueger;

treasurer, Charles Hamann; justice of the peace, Nels Monson; constable, Ole Pederson. Joseph Fernholz was the clerk of the first election.

The first meeting of the village council was held Feb. 8, 1892.

The present officers are: President, J. W. Rusch; councilmen, J. H. Sander, Fred C. Eiselein, Walter Berry; recorder, W. D. Wallner; treasurer, Herman Yunker; justices of the peace, Charles Werner, Herman F. Moede and J. Fred Siats; constable, Claus Grek; marshal, Cecil Michaelson; assessor, W. D. Wallner.

A brief business directory follows: Auctioneers, R. H. Funk, C. G. McEwen; Geo. Bagley Elevator Co. (G. A. Erickson, manager); Berry Bros. (Walter Berry, manager), grist mill; Boon Lake Creamery (G. W. Kurth, manager), Lakeside; Elwin Borden, White Wyandotte Poultry and Old Swine Breeder; Buffalo Lake Blacksmith & Machine Shop (L. A. Reep, prop.), oxy-acetylene welding, horse shoeing, and plow work a specialty; Buffalo Lake Commercial Club (H. L. Reep, president; F. C. Eiselein, secretary; Herman Yunker, treasurer) Buffalo Lake Creamery (J. E. Swanson, manager); Buffalo Lake Hotel (Julius Tollefson, proprietor); Buffalo Lake "News" (Thos. I. Foster, publisher); Buffalo Lake Opera House (Winkler Bros. managers); Buffalo Lake Produce Co. (J. B. Evenson, manager); Buffalo Lake Township Mutual Fire Insurance Co. (Frank Wallner, secretary); Buffalo Lake Motor Co. (E. W. Jacobitz and C. H. Werner); City Dray Line (H. L. Michelson, proprietor); A. Eiselein & Sons (Adolph, Eugene, Fred and Henry), general store; Equity Elevator & Trading Co. (P. H. Fabel, manager); Farmers' State Bank (C. A. Kuske, president; Nat. Kuske, cashier); Albert Farrar, barber; Richard Fischer, grain elevator; Peter Fisher, fire chief; Funk & Wallner (R. H. Funk, Louis J. Wallner), livery; Everett C. Gaines, physician; Grunke & Schultz, general store (Lakeside); Andrew Hanson, produce; Jno. Lauschke, shoemaker; Louis Lipke, junk; Miller & Quast, grocers (R. E. Miller and Martin Quast); Midland Lumber Company (Aug. Mielke, manager); Cecil Michelson, village marshal; Frantz G. Neller-moe, insurance agent; Jno. J. Nygaard, jeweler; Fred C. Porter, cement worker (machinery); Jno. Quast, furniture; E. W. Rebstock, drugs; Reep Bros. (Harvey L. and Orlando O.), hardware; J. W. Rusch Land Co., farm lands and real estate (Jno Rusch); Reinhold Jakobitz, agent grain elevator; Henry H. Schraan, hardware; P. E. Schoeneman, postmaster; John Siats, restaurant; Reinhold E. Sell, meats; Siewert & Sander (Adolph G. and Fred W. Siewert, Rutherford and Jno. Sander), general store; State Bank (capital stock, \$25,000; J. C. Nagel, president; F. G. Neller-moe, cashier); Stearns Lumber Co., Virgil P. Goodnow, agent; George Sausele, garage; Tri-State Telephone Co.; L. A. Reep, blacksmith; Jos. G. Williams, railway express and telegraph agent; D. W. Wallner,

village recorder; Herman Yunker, harness; Chas. Zalk & Son, gent's furnishings, clothing and dry goods.

DANUBE VILLAGE.

Tourists on their way westward along the famous well-traveled "Yellow Trail" through Renville county, after making an abrupt turn northward about five miles out of the county seat, suddenly come into view of the pleasant little village of Danube. Lying midway between and but a few miles from Olivia and Renville, it presents a surprising picture of quick development, considering its nearness to its older neighbors and its rather unpromising beginnings. Even a casual glance, however, at the gradually rolling land, the fertile fields, and the prosperous farmsteads in the vicinity, reveals the secret of its growth and the logic of its location.

As early as 1876 settlers laid claim to the surrounding country. In that year John Stange took a homestead of 80 acres just north of the present village; in May, 1878, John Kuether filed on land in section 32 and was followed soon after by William Bede and Henry Henrieks. Many other settlers came, and trade took its natural course to the nearby villages. For many years the railroad map indicated only that the company had a stopping place near the present site of the village, where gravel was taken on and known as "Gravel Pit Station."

With the increase of the farming population and with the poor roads leading to the nearby markets, many settlers believed that a nearer and more accessible market would be exceedingly advantageous. At the time of the county seat removal fight, a petition was circulated, asking the railroad company to give the people a station, to be known as "Miles." As the acquiescence of the two neighboring villages would have to be secured for the purpose, the petition lay in a dormant state for some time, as naturally neither Renville nor Olivia countenanced the idea of seeing a rival market being established. However, as the county seat fight waxed fiercer, the consent of the two towns was secured through the time honored "log-rolling" method, and Miles was given a place in the railroad "sum." In their anxiety to secure the station, a number of farmers had organized a company and had built a co-operative elevator, the first building on the present site of the village. No side-track being secured, no grain was bought the first year, and the building was sold to H. H. Neuenburg, who later disposed of it to the Crown Elevator people, who now hold it.

With the concession of the station immediate growth followed. William Terry, of Bird Island, built and conducted the first general store in the spring of 1899 where the Beck blacksmithy now stands. August Sommerfield, appointed first postmaster in

1899, soon removed the office from its little shack to the Terry store, Mr. Terry being appointed assistant. The next year H. W. Shoemaker, of North Redwood, erected a building and opened up the second store on the spot where he now conducts his mercantile business. At the same time Philip Fabel and J. W. Beck built a hardware which they later converted into the first hotel. Herman Roepke, of Buffalo Lake, opened up a harness shop the same year.

In 1901, in order to better control the liquor traffic, the village was incorporated. The name of "Miles" was dropped as it was found to give rise to considerable confusion owing to the existence of other villages in the state by that name. Why the new name was adopted is not known on good authority. As the story goes, it appears that the additional stop at Miles was not particularly pleasing to the railroad men at that time and the official name was not heard as often as other utterances, "not loud, but deep." These latter expressions to an innocent bystander might have sounded somewhat like, "Dan-ube," although that was not the exact wording of the phrase. Be that as it may, it is not here vouched for as a fact, but merely adverted to, for the sake of being precise and authentic. At any rate Danube is the name given to the place by the railroad company and accepted as the name of the newly incorporated village.

The first council meeting, November 30 of that year, consisted of F. A. Schroeder, president; Fred Sausele, Chris. Schmidt and John Fischer, councillors; and Jas. J. Moughan, recorder. Schroeder, Schmidt and Fischer constituted the first board of health. Ordinance No. 1 was passed relating to the licensing of saloons.

The original owner of the village site was August Sommerfeld who disposed of it to F. A. Schroeder. The site was well-chosen, the land lying high and being well drained.

The first school within the village limits was built in 1904 at a cost of about \$4,000, the school having previously been located about a half-mile south of its present situation. Nellie Pettis and Miss Leonard were the first teachers.

In the same year a system of waterworks was installed, consisting of an excellent well, tower with tank of 242 barrels capacity, and a large gasoline engine, at a cost of between three and four thousand dollars. There are now about seven blocks of mains.

The growing business of the community soon demanded a local clearing house and in 1902 T. O'Connor, of Renville, established a bank, under the direction of F. A. Schroeder, president; Fred Kamin, vice president; B. G. Schroeder, cashier. It is still the only bank and is known as the Danube State Bank.

In 1904 the "Danube Herald" made its appearance. It was printed at Buffalo Lake by J. R. Landy and mailed to its subscribers at Danube. Later a printing plant was established at Danube in charge of A. E. Hill, of Morton. After a fitful existence of a few years, the spark of life went out. In November, 1911, the "Danube Review" was issued by E. C. Wallner, and continued by him until the summer of 1915, when C. A. Heilig, former principal of the public school, became its editor and proprietor. It is an enterprising publication and deserving of the hearty support of Danube citizens.

The first church services were conducted by Rev. Green, a Presbyterian, the next by the German Evangelicals in the town hall. A church was built in 1904. Rev. F. F. Arndt is the resident pastor. The German Lutheran congregation built about the same time, but have no resident minister, services being conducted by Rev. H. H. Hupfer, of Olivia.

The present village contains about three hundred inhabitants, in the main of German extraction. They are a thrifty class, homes are neat and grounds well kept, and the general appearance of the village speaks well for its industrious people. The latter are firm believers in education and the school building is, perhaps, the most prominent of all. In 1914 the two rooms were increased to four, modern conveniences were installed as to heating and sanitation, including steam heat, ventilation by fan, toilets, and septic tank; a gymnasium built in the basement, and the building and equipment improved in every respect. Besides the regular eight grades, two years of high school work is now carried on. It is the aim of the board of education, now made up of Adolph Wallert, F. A. Schroeder and Ed. Grunnert, to have such a department of domestic science that every child in the village or community may have the benefit of a good, practical common school education without the necessity of leaving home. A. M. Taylor is principal of the school, with four teachers in the grades and one special instructor for the domestic science course.

The village council at present consists of F. A. Schroeder, president; Henry J. Stange, recorder; N. T. Knott, H. F. Bruss and L. C. Hendricks, councillors; William Finley, justice. F. A. Kennitz is constable; Dr. William C. Dieterich, William Voelz and Gus. Miller make up the board of health. The latter is also street commissioner. An adequate fire department has been established with E. C. Wallner as chief.

The M. W. A. have a local camp of twenty-three members with officers as follows: H. W. Shoemaker, V. C.; George Billiar, A. D.; Ben. Manthei, B.; George Macheledt, clerk.

Danube has three general stores, one furniture store, one bank, two churches, one newspaper, four elevators, one hotel, one livery, one drug store, one hardware, one blacksmith, one creamery, one

restaurant, one produce station, one cement tile factory, two pool halls, one barber shop, one millinery, one harness shop, one lumber yard, and one doctor. Bonds of \$2,500 were voted in the spring of 1915 to bring the electric current from Bird Island in order to give the live little village a satisfactory system of lighting its broad streets, snug homes and enterprising business places. Contract has been let for a county ditch to be built on the south side of the village which will provide a sewerage outlet for the village.

A brief business directory follows:

Gust F. Black, barber; Crown Elevator Co., William Valz, agent; Danube Farmers' Elevator Co., Wm. Finley, agent; Danube Hardware Co. (Herman A. Bruss, Elmer Fischer, Otto E. Schroeder); Danube Mercantile Co. (George Macheldt, president; Henry Stange, vice president; Fred A. Bade, secretary and manager), general store; Danube "Saturday Review," (Edward C. Wallner publisher); Danube State Bank, (capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$13,000; F. A. Schroeder, president; B. G. Schroeder, cashier); Danube Telephone Co., F. A. Schroeder, manager; Wm. C. Dietrich, physician; Empire Elevator Co., John J. Playhart, agent; Flora Township Mutual Fire Insurance Co., F. A. Schroeder, secretary; Horst Bros. (Henry L. and Benjamin H.), livery; N. I. Hugger, creamery; Fred A. Kennitz, meats; Henry Kerwin, blacksmith; William H. Krueger, furniture; Albert Kuether, proprietor of the Union Hotel; Geo. J. Macheldt, produce; H. H. Neuenburg & Co., Nicholas T. Knott, manager, lumber; Seber T. Nordgarden, restaurant; Pacific Elevator Co., Chas. F. Dobratz, agent; Henry W. Shoemaker, general store and postmaster; Christ A. Wallner, harness; E. C. Wallner, publisher, Danube "Saturday Review"; Carl W. Ziemer, railway, express and telegraph agent.

In the fall of 1899, H. W. Shoemaker and wife arrived. Mr. Shoemaker says: "When we located here there were a few buildings here which had been started in the fall of 1898, when I made the basement for my store. One elevator was built but we had no side track; then in the year 1899 the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul put in their first side track. In this same year Herman Lindeman came from North Redwood and started a lumber yard and also bought grain. Later on this yard and elevator went by the name of H. H. Neuenburg & Co., who sold the elevator but retained the yard which is still in operation.

"In 1898 August Sommerfeld built the first building, a 10 by 12 postoffice. In the spring of 1899 P. H. Fabel and Jacob Beck started a hardware store, Herman Roepke a harness shop and Thomas Slough a saloon. C. Riebe built the second elevator on the north side of the track which burned down, and then built

what is now the Pacific elevator. Wm. Terry had a small store on the present site of the blacksmith shop."

In 1901, Mr. Shoemaker was appointed postmaster, and held the office until 1915. The oldest settlers now in the village are Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker and Mrs. F. Hinrichs.

Lots in the village of Miles (now Danube) were first assessed in 1899. The principal owner was August Sommerfeld. Those who had already secured lots were: Carl Sausele, lot 1, block 1; Louis R. Gemmett, lot 2, block 1; H. H. Neuenburg et al., lots 3, 4, 13, block 1; F. A. Schroeder, lots 7 and 8, block 1; Wm. F. Terry, lot 9, block 1; lots 1, 3, block 2; Thomas Slough, lot 10, block 9; Jacob W. Beck, lot 11, block 1; P. H. Fabel, lot 12, block 1; James McCormick, lot 2, block 2; Chas. Braun, lot 4, block 2; Christ Blume, lot 5, block 2; F. Hinricks, lots 8 and 9, block 2; lot 3, block 5; lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, block 6; J. H. Engeman, lot 10, block 2; Herman Roepke, lot 2, block 5; August Nere, lot 4, block 5; Herman Lindeman, lots 5 and 6, block 5. From 1906 on this town has been assessed as Danube.

FAIRFAX VILLAGE.

Fairfax is located on the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway, about eighty-eight miles southwest from Minneapolis. It is situated in the southeastern corner of Renville county and lies about seven miles north of the historic site of old Fort Ridgely, which has now been set aside as a state park and which was formally dedicated and turned over to the State on August 22, 1914, with fitting ceremonies.

The township of Cairo, in which Fairfax is situated, was one of the earliest in the county. It is located in one of the best agricultural regions in the state and it is the trade and business headquarters for one of the most enterprising farm communities found in any part of the country.

In 1880, the M. & St. L. railroad reached Winthrop where it halted for a year, but the officers of the road, during this year of inactivity, selected townsites along the line and among the ones selected was the present site of Fairfax.

As the site selected was within the township of Cairo it was natural that the people residing in the neighborhood of the proposed new village should desire that it should bear that name. An examination of the postoffice records, however, developed the fact that there was another postoffice in the state with a name that so nearly approached "Cairo" that the postal authorities declined to accept that as the name of a new office which necessitated the selection of a new title. There were several names suggested and quite a little feeling developed as to who should have the honor of christening the new town. The matter was finally compromised by leaving it to Eben Ryder, at the time

president of the M. & St. L. road, to make the selection. Mr. Ryder was a Virginian, a native of Fairfax county, and so he bestowed upon the newly organized village the historic name of "Fairfax."

On August 22, 1882, the town was platted, and shortly afterwards the Government instituted the postoffice, with L. C. Grady as postmaster, and Fairfax was officially placed upon the map of Minnesota.

Early history shows that St. Andrew's parish was the first religious institution in Fairfax. In fact, it may be said to have become a distinctly local house of worship in 1875, at which time a frame building used for services was removed from Fort Ridgely to within a short distance of where Fairfax now stands. The building was afterwards moved to East Fairfax and used for social gatherings.

At that time the judicial seat of Renville county was located at Beaver Falls, 22 miles across country, while the nearest banking point was Gaylord, in Sibley county, 25 miles distant. Improved land in this community was selling at that time at from \$15 to \$20 while unimproved land could be purchased at from \$9 to \$12 per acre.

Though the railroad company picked out anything but a favorable site for their station in Fairfax, business houses of various kinds were started immediately.

Fairfax has long been recognized as a leading business point in Renville county. It is also fully as good a town as there is anywhere along the St. Louis road, the aggregate freight and passenger business at this point approximating fully \$50,000 per year.

The population of 815 as shown by the census of 1910 does the village an injustice, because the outlying precinct of "Hoboken" which abuts right up to the village is a part of the town for all intents and purposes save and except that they do not have the village tax to pay. The total actual population of Fairfax and Hoboken is at least 1,100.

Fairfax was incorporated as a village in 1888, M. D. Brown was elected president of the village council. The village has had many efficient men on its council and under their direction many public improvements have been made. The village owns its village hall with a seating capacity of 600 in the auditorium on the second floor, with smaller halls for lodge and other purposes on the first floor.

The town has one of the best electric light systems in the state. The current is generated by the Crescent Milling Company and wholesaled to the village which retail the juice to the residents. Continuous service of the best possible light at a reasonable cost helps to make Fairfaxans contented and happy.

Fairfax has an adequate water system for fire protection and a well organized fire department fairly well equipped. The water is of the best but only a small percentage of the people use the supply from the village for domestic purposes.

The telephone exchange is owned and controlled entirely by Fairfax capital, as are the rural lines reaching out in every direction from the village. The equipment is of the best and the service continuous. Long distance connections are made with both the Tri-State and Northwestern lines.

Fairfax has four splendid churches, the Catholic, the Methodist, the German Lutheran and the Norwegian Lutheran.

Among the fraternal organizations may be mentioned the Masonic organization, the M. B. A., the M. W. A., the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Lady Foresters, the Sons of Herman, and numerous church societies. The G. A. R. post and the Ladies of the G. A. R. are also flourishing organizations.

The present site of Fairfax was originally an island. This island occupied all of section 2, the east half of section 3, and the west half of section 1, in the original plat of Fairfax, as well as the southern part of section 8, and a corner of section 5, in Klasen's addition. It also extended south of the track and terminated in a ridge extending southeast. This island was surrounded with sloughs, swamps, and swales, filled with muskrat houses, the haunt of numberless water fowl.

John Welsh had a farmhouse forty rods south of the present depot. Part of the village is platted on his land. One-half a mile west of the site was Hugh Carson. One-half mile east of the site was Edmond O'Hara. It was on his land that East Fairfax, now known as Hoboken, was platted. One-half a mile south of the site was Nels Peterson. A half a mile north of town was James O'Hara. The nearest road was the old road east of the village, the main road between New Ulm and Fairfax.

The village of Fairfax dates from 1882, when the townsite was platted. After it became known that the railroad was to establish a village here, there was considerable doubt as to whether the new settlement would be located on the farm of John Welsh or on the farm of Edmond O'Hara.

For a time the O'Hara farm seemed the probable site, and quite a settlement sprang up there, known both as East Fairfax and as Hoboken. Uriah Tibbetts came to East Fairfax in the fall of 1882 and opened a saloon eighty rods west of Ed. O'Hara's house near the railroad. On the rear of his lot he erected a home. A frame building originally located at Ft. Ridgely and later moved near the old cemetery, north of the present village, and used for Catholic church services was later moved to East Fairfax and long remained a social center.

Luke T. Grady was the first merchant on the site of the present village. He had been a pioneer merchant in Hector in this county and from there had moved to Arlington. When the railroad was projected through this part of the country he built a shack and started selling goods on the northeast corner of section 10. This was in 1881. About August, 1882, he came to the present site of Fairfax and moved his shack to a place near the middle of Second avenue, in front of lot 15, block 3. To this shack he built a canvas addition in the form of a tent and there he started selling provisions and liquors. Soon afterward he erected a new store on lot 15, block 3, where he continued for several years.

Soon after Mr. Grady's arrival, the influx of business began. Many of the early business men came from Sleepy Eye, and several of them had been friends before coming here.

Henry Hauser came from Sleepy Eye in the late summer of 1882, and opened a lumber yard under the firm name of Miller, Christenson & Hauser. This yard occupied the present site of the wood yard of the Midland Lumber Co., east of the street and south of the track. The first carload of lumber received by this yard was sold to Posen & Anderson, the second to Charles Schutnick and the third to Phillip Kipp. This lumber company continues in business to the present time, now being known as the Hauser Lumber Co. C. A. Lammers and G. A. Rieke are now associated with Mr. Hauser in the business. The yard is now located on lots 1 and 2, block 3.

John C. Brennescholz opened a lumber yard at practically the same time that the Hauser yard was opened. It occupies a place south of the tracks and west of the street, the present site of the office of the Midland Lumber Co.

Posen & Anderson, from Sleepy Eye, opened their store early in the fall. It was located on lot 8, block 2. Mr. Anderson was then single. The Posen family lived above the store. Emil F. Sell bought out Anderson and the company became Posen & Sell. Later the firm became Sell & Nelson. Next Emil F. and Gustave C. Sell conducted the firm under the name of the Sell Brothers. Gustave C. Sell died, and his interests were purchased by J. W. Schramm. The firm then became Sell & Schramm. The firm was likewise interested in the State Bank of Fairfax. Then the two partners divided, Mr. Sell taking the store and Mr. Schramm the bank. The business is still at the same location. It is known as the Fairfax Department Store and is owned by August F. Rieke, Richard G. Rienke and the estate of Emil F. Sell.

Charles Schutnick came from Sleepy Eye in the early fall of 1882, and erected a blacksmith shop on lot 6, block 2. He brought his family and moved them into a house which he had erected beside his shop. This was the first dwelling on the village site.

Phillip Kipp came from Sleepy Eye at practically the same time and opened a wagon shop on lot 5, block 2. He spent most of the winter here and in March, 1883, brought his family. Mr. Kipp is still a resident of the village.

About this time a flathouse was opened for the purchase of grain, the buyer being Nels Nelson. The flathouse was located on the east side of Second street south of the railroad track, between the Hauser Lumber Co. and the railroad.

About the first snow fall, the Dodge Brothers moved into Fairfax, and located on lots 10 and 11, block 2. They moved their building to the back of the lot, and started erecting a new building for a saloon. The new building was completed enough to be used before winter.

Sylvester Turner, who had formerly been a farmer, opened a livery stable on the alley in the middle of block 2, near lot 15. This was late in the fall of 1882.

John Buehler opened a hardware and furniture store on lot 10, block 1.

Adam Christman opened a meat market on lot 14, block 3, and lived in back of the store.

The original depot was erected on the same site as the present station during the fall of 1882. Some years ago this station and a nearby elevator were burned. The present station was at once erected. A new station has for some time been advocated by the Fairfax Commercial club, but this far without results.

Thomas Welsh opened a hotel in the winter of 1882-83, its location being lot 10, block 1. His sister, Mrs. Ellen (Welsh) O'Neill, kept house for him.

About the same time Henry Hauffman opened a saloon on lot 4, block 2. Toward spring Hauffman sold to Robert Mahl.

Timothy Cayton opened a hotel where the Windsor Hotel is now located, lots 15 and 16, block 2.

H. L. Ihles opened a blacksmith shop on lot 9, block 1.

Charles Thomas started a blacksmith shop on lot 5 block 2.

Nelson & Peterson, of Red Wing, who had a branch store at Hector, came to Fairfax in the winter of 1882-83 with Amund Dahl, the present county treasurer as partner, and opened a hardware store where the Farmers Coöperative store is now located.

Village lots in Fairfax were first assessed in 1883. Eben Rider and Bridget Welsh were the principal owners. Those who had already secured lots were: H. L. Ihles, lot 9, block 1; Thomas Welsh, lot 10, block 1; John Buehler, lot 11, block 1; Chas. Thomas, lot 12, block 1; Phillip Kipp, lot 5, block 2; Chas. Schuknecht, lot 6, block 2; Robert Mahl, lot 7, block 2; B. L. Bird, lot 9, block 2; Theodore Crone, lot 10, block 2; Dodge Bros., lot 11, block 2; Henry Offerman, lot 12, block 2; Henry Hauser, lot 13, block 2; F. W. Keeting, lot 15, block 2; C. H. Nixon, lot 9, block 3; Cath-

erine Grady, lots 10, 15, 16, block 3; T. C. Brennisholtz, lot 3, block 6; John Lane, lot 4, block 6; John Crofford, lot 8, block 6; Walter Dohney, lot 10, block 6.

Village of East Fairfax. A man whose name is given as Rudolph owned nearly all of the lots assessed in 1883. Those who had secured lots were: Iver Gunderson, lot 3, block 1; James H. Smith, lots 12 and 13, block 1; Albertine Sell, lot 12, block 3; Wm. Comme, lot 4, block 4; lot 27, block 4.

Toward spring in 1883, Charles Bird erected a store in Fairfax where the postoffice now stands, and lived overhead. He planned to open a saloon but gave up the project.

There were few children in Fairfax during the spring of 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Kipp had a son, Charles M. Mrs. Ellen O'Neil had three children, Frank, Nellie and Mary. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schutnick had a son, Edward. Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Caton had several children. This constituted the young life of the village that winter. Many of the pioneers were unmarried, and most of the families were living in the buildings which housed their business establishments.

The first physician in Fairfax was Dr. C. S. Knapp, who came in 1883, and opened a drug store on lot 13, block 3.

The first lawyer was Mr. Joy, who came in 1883.

The biggest fire in the history of Fairfax was that of Sept. 17, 1895, when the northeast corner of block 6 was wiped out, taking the Methodist parsonage, the J. C. Fullerton mill and other structures.

Fairfax was incorporated in 1888. A petition was presented to the county board, praying for the incorporation, dated Nov. 21, 1887, and signed by M. D. Brown, Dr. H. E. Lucas, Luther Nichols, C. Hornberg, Horatio Werring, A. M. Londe, O. H. Jertsen, B. S. Martin, A. Hinderman, J. W. Gruber, Andrew Nelson, Gustav Sell, Emil F. Sell, A. A. Grueke, N. D. Lorge, Johan Lorge, W. A. Burchfield, C. N. Hiekox, August Thiele, Louis Thiele, J. Hirsh, Frank Bregel, J. J. Pokock, L. McBride, Otto Lundquist, Ole H. Grassmoen, J. C. Brennesholtz, G. E. Clark, M. W. Welter, Charles Thomas, M. Classen, Albert Runge, W. H. Bird, Charles Lammers, Thomas Greer, Phillip Kipp, H. H. Hindermann, John Cretty, Alois Huskamp, Henry Hauser and W. Knapp. At that time the official population of the village was 192.

The petition was favorably acted upon by the commissioners Dec. 2, 1887, at Beaver Falls, and an election ordered held. The election was held accordingly on Jan. 5, 1888, at the office of Martin D. Brown, lot 4, block 2, in charge of Martin D. Brown, Horatio Werring and Frank Bregel, Brown and Bregel acting as judges and Werring as clerk. It was duly decided to incorporate, but through some curious oversight the vote is not given in the village records.

The first election of officers was held at the office of Mr. Brown Jan. 18, 1888, and resulted as follows: President, M. D. Brown; councilmen, Alois Huskamp, M. W. Welter, and J. C. Fullerton; treasurer, Henry Hauser; recorder, Horatio Werring; justices of the peace, Phillip Kipp and Thomas Greer; constable, Louis Thiele. Fifty-seven votes were cast.

The first meeting of the council was held Jan. 19, 1888. Oaths of office were administered and the bonds of the various officers accepted. No further business was transacted.

The present officers of the village are as follows: President, C. W. Heimann; council, E. H. Brown, H. F. Dickmeyer, J. C. Grams; recorder, A. E. Carver; treasurer, H. E. Grasmon; justices, J. F. Russell, M. D. Brown; assessor, John Meyer; village attorney, Frank H. Hopkins; constable, Frank Pullen; marshal, Frank Willett; chairman of the board of health, Dr. G. H. Walker.

A water supply for fire protection was first considered Jan. 15, 1888, when the council determined to erect a tank in the alley in the middle of block 2. John Donahue dug the cistern, Andrew Hinderman built the shed, and Hinderman & Shipplach set up the tank. A small hand engine, or force pump, was provided for getting the water from the well.

The next move toward fire protection was made by the council April 19, 1889, when it was determined to lease a well from Dodge Brothers, in the rear of lots 10 and 11, block 3. A windmill was erected soon after by the Phillips Well & Windmill Co. There was also a hand pump for use when the windmill failed.

As early as April 19, 1889, the council recognized the organization of the Fairfax Engine and Hose Company.

The first fire engine for use by the village of Fairfax was ordered by the city council April 12, 1890, the cost being \$1,700. On the same date a committee, consisting of Luther Nichols, Phillip Kipp and Charles Lammers was appointed to go to New Ulm to investigate the proposition of village cisterns. A shelter for the engine was erected on the railroad right of way, on the south side of Second avenue, and south of the alley which divides block 2. The present engine house occupies the same site. May 6, 1890, two bills from Henry Hinshen for constructing two 500-gallon cisterns were accepted. June 2, of the same year, it was voted to dig a ditch from the old Dodge Bros.' well to one of the cisterns. These cisterns were located where First and Second streets cross First avenue.

July 1, 1890, after the engine had been purchased, a staff was appointed as follows: Engineer, Fred Chambard, first assistant, L. McBride; second assistant, George W. Chambard; third assistant, John Calland. Albert Hornberg was appointed chief of the fire department. The department, however, at that time

had not been organized, Mr. Hornberg in reality being chief of the hose company.

May 5, 1891, this organization was abolished, the village voted to purchase considerable fire apparatus, and the Fairfax Fire Department was regularly organized as follows: Chief engineer, Fred Chambard; assistants, G. W. Chambard and L. McBride; hosemen, A. Hornberg (chief), John Cretty, C. Lammers, E. F. Sell, W. B. Dodge, B. Marty, Peter Springer, Joseph Kelfgen, W. A. Burchfield and Luther Nichols.

The department now has thirty members. The officers are: Vincent Drexler; assistant, L. L. Palmer; treasurer, J. C. Fullerton; secretary, H. E. Grasmon.

At a special election held March 9, 1897, the voters decided in favor of issuing certificates of indebtedness to the amount of \$4,000. The council took the necessary steps and the bonds were issued. The purpose of the issue was to pay for the fire engine and to purchase other apparatus.

On Dec. 4, 1897, it was voted to buy a 300-pound fire bell.

A waterworks system was first publicly advocated at a mass meeting held at the schoolhouse April 11, 1892. April 12, 1892, Carson & Greer were given the contract of digging a well on or near the railroad right of way, southeast of lot 8, block 1. June 21, 1892, the council, then consisting of Luther Nichols, president; W. A. Burchfield, John Cretty and Henry Hauser (Thomas Greer being the recorder), let a contract to H. H. Harrison & Co. for constructing a system of waterworks for \$4,068. The mass meeting held had seemed favorable to the project, but there had been no vote of the citizens authorizing such an act on the part of the council. Work on this contract was started at once. The system with trifling exceptions was accepted Aug. 31, 1892.

As the next move in the waterworks situation an entirely new board was elected in 1893, consisting of Paul Albrecht, president, Phillip Kipp, Wenzel Frank and Antone Altman.

This board on July 8, 1893, passed a resolution repudiating the work done by H. H. Harrison & Co., disavowing any obligation or debt on the part of the village toward that company, and ordering the company to remove the watermains, windmill, and the like, already erected.

This system consisted of a windmill and tank at the old village well, and three blocks of watermains. The matter was taken into court and the village won its contention.

July 12, 1894, a special election was held to decide the question of issuing \$4,500 in bonds to buy the waterworks from the Harrison Company. In the meantime Harrison had placed his price at \$5,200, and had received village orders, later repudiated, for \$5,043. He now offered to compromise for \$4,000. The result of the election July 12, 1894, is not recorded in the village

minutes, but the decision of the voters was unfavorable to the project.

April 6, 1895, the village council decided to purchase lots 12, 13 and 14, in block 5, south of the railroad tracks, for village purposes.

At the same meeting it was decided to build two cisterns for the village, of 500 barrels capacity each. One was to be on block 5, on the village property, and the other in the street opposite J. P. Mondloh's in Brown's addition.

A special election was held July 30, 1895, and the citizens again voted on the question of issuing bonds to the amount of \$4,500 for the purchase of waterworks. The proposition carried by a vote of 63 to 20, four other votes being spoiled.

Efforts were at once made to issue the bonds. Oct. 2, 1895, the waterworks were accepted from H. H. Harrison & Co., the purchase price being \$5,500, a sum considerably in excess of Harrison's previous offer. The bonds were not sold and were readvertised. A vote was passed Jan. 7, 1896, in which the council reaffirmed the acceptance of the waterworks.

June 8, 1896, it was reported that the village had been unable to sell the bonds. It was, therefore, decided to pay the company \$1,000 at once, \$1,000 on April 1, 1897, on April 1, 1898, on April 1, 1899, and \$700 on April 1, 1900, \$4,700 in all, the village to receive the orders issued Aug. 23, 1892, amounting to \$5,043.

In the fall of 1896 a tubular well was put in by Palmer & Dickmeyer. On the same date it was decided to buy a gasoline engine, and extend the mains, and erect a pump house, the contract being awarded to O'Hara, Dickmeyer, Dieter and Palmer.

The work was accepted Feb. 15, 1897. The well and pump house were located on the village property, where the present plant is situated east of the village hall. The water was pumped through mains to the tank southeast of block 1.

At a special election held in August, 1897, it was voted to issue \$4,000 bonds to extend the waterworks. The bonds were issued and sold to Cliff W. Gress.

The proposition of erecting a new tower and water tank came before the people at a special election March 11, 1902. Bonds were to be issued to the amount of \$3,000. The proposition was defeated, 45 voting in its favor, and 82 against it.

The old water tank, southeast of block 1, was condemned July 18, 1907.

Again the question of a new water tower came before the voters Aug. 27, 1907, the proposition being to issue bonds of \$8,000 for the purpose. The proposition was favorably acted upon by a vote of 32 to 16. Bonds of \$12,000 were issued, the extra \$4,000 being for the purpose of refunding the bonds of 1897.

The tower and tank were erected on the present site, in the spring of 1908 by J. F. Johnson, some trifling details, however, remaining unfinished for over a year.

The original lock-up was erected in 1888, the contract being awarded April 16, 1888, to Henry Hauser at \$174. It was located on the railroad right of way, across Second avenue from lot 15, block 2.

Theodore Edwin was burned to death in this lockup in the fall of 1897. He had been arrested for intoxication and had been put in the lockup without being searched. In some way he managed to set fire to himself and to the building, in the front part of which were stored many inflammable substances belonging to the village. After some delay the young man was taken from the building but life had already departed.

The first street lights seem to have been installed in Fairfax in 1891. For some years oil was used. Later gasoline furnished the fuel.

For many years the proposition to erect a village hall and electric light plant had a history in common.

March 10, 1903, at a regular election, the voters by a vote of 98 to 68 declared themselves in favor of bonding the village to the amount of \$20,000 for the erection of a city hall and the installation of an electric light system.

The action of the voters was rescinded by the council, April 18, 1903, and a special election of the voters held May 5, 1903, to consider the two propositions separately. At the election in question the two propositions were defeated. The electric light proposition received 87 ballots and only 68 ballots were cast against it, but the majority was not great enough. The proposition to build a village hall was defeated by a vote of 84 favorable votes and 70 opposing votes. The proposition has involved the issuing of bonds of \$8,000 for the electric light plant, and of \$12,000 for the village hall. A two-thirds vote was necessary to carry the proposition.

At the regular election held March 8, 1904, the proposition to bond the village to the amount of \$10,000 to build a village hall was considered. The vote was 83 for and 74 against and the proposition was rejected.

The voters also considered the question of separating the village from the township. Only 38 favored it, while 75 negative votes were cast.

Feb. 18, 1905, a number of voters presented to the council a petition asking that bonds of \$7,000 be issued to erect a city hall and engine house. The council rejected the petition.

Feb. 13, 1906, at a special election, by a vote of 90 to 7, it was at last decided to issue bonds to the amount of \$6,000 for village hall purposes.

The old schoolhouse was purchased March 5, 1906, was moved to the site of the village property, and was extensively repaired and renovated. This is the present village hall, a slightly structure, amply adapted to its various needs.

The village hall was formally opened on Tuesday, May 28, 1907, by a dramatic production, "A Noble Outcast," given by the Fairfax Dramatic Club, the cast including A. M. Wallace, Philip V. Ploof, Ben. Mamer, Attalus Madden, Alma Grasmoen (Mrs. Carsten O. Broughton), Lizzie Frank and Mrs. Jessie Paul. The entertainment was for the benefit of the high school piano fund. The next night East Lynn was given by the same cast. The scenery for the hall was selected by the Dramatic club, and for several seasons the club continued to give theatrical entertainments in the new hall.

The village hall question settled, the electric light question continued to agitate the minds of the people. At a special election held Feb. 8, 1910, by a vote of 98 for to 25 against, the voters decided to issue \$5,000 bonds for the purpose. Aug. 17, 1910, a contract was let to the Western Electric Co. for installing poles, wires, and the like, and on Sept. 15, 1910, a contract was made with the Crescent Milling Co. for furnishing the power.

The electric light current was turned on for the first time Wednesday evening, Dec. 7, 1910. This was for residence and business use. The street lights were turned on the next evening. For a year and a half, however, there was considerable difficulty in furnishing continuous service, and during that time the company received no pay for the current.

The proposition of establishing a village park on an available site in the part of the village known as Brooklyn came before the voters March 10, 1914, and was defeated. Out of 204 votes cast for officers only 180 were cast on the park question. Of these only thirty-seven favored it, no less than 133 being against it.

Telephone service in Fairfax is furnished by the Fairfax Telephone Co. The officers are: President, William Dickmeyer; vice president, Paul Albrecht; secretary and treasurer, H. G. Lammer; manager, A. E. Fenske. The Renville Rural Telephone Co. also centers here and uses the same exchange. Long distance service is furnished by the Tri-State and the Northwestern. The Fairfax company succeeded the Minnesota Central Telephone Co., and obtained a franchise March 5, 1906.

Oct. 7, 1897, permission was given to the Western Minnesota Telephone Co. to erect poles in the village for the purpose of opening an office and transacting long-distance telephone business. The city was to have free use of the wires for city business.

Nov. 2, 1897, the Sibley County Telephone Exchange Co. was granted the privilege of setting its poles and stringing its wires in the village.

A franchise for a local telephone system was granted to Conrad H. Davis, May 18, 1900.

The Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph Co. was given a franchise June 26, 1905.

For a long period during its early history the village of Fairfax was rent with dissensions caused by the rivalry between the West street (First street) and the East street (Second street). Grady's store, the first in the village, had been built on the West street. The Posen & Anderson store had been built on the East street. As other business houses were erected along the two streets the rivalry became intense. In time the proposition resolved itself into two districts, the East street people led by Luther Nichols and the West street people by Horatio Werring. The bitterness was intense. Every proposition considered was considered in the light of its effect on the two factions. When any public improvement was advocated by one faction the other faction opposed it, whatever its merits. So keen was the rivalry that on one occasion two separate Fourth of July celebrations were held on the same day, each faction having its own celebration. The growth of the village was thus somewhat retarded. But of late years better counsel has prevailed and the village is now at harmony.

Two efforts have been made to include East Fairfax, sometimes called "Hoboken," within the limits of Fairfax. The first time the people of East Fairfax themselves desired to come into the village. They were championed by Luther Nicholas and others who favored the claims of the East street (Second street) to business supremacy. The people of the West street (First street) and their friends opposed the admission of East Fairfax. The opposition was led by Horatio Werring and E. F. Sell. When the vote was taken, it was found that the proposed annexation had failed to carry.

Later the proposition was again broached. This time the people of the West street desired the annexation, and the people of East Fairfax themselves opposed the proposition. They were upheld by their friends of the East street, and once again the annexation project failed.

The story of the drainage of Fairfax and vicinity is a most interesting one. In the earliest days several small ditches were dug both by individuals who wished to drain their own lots and also by the village. The first venture of any magnitude was that of the Rev. Father Peter Rosen. He conceived the idea of constructing a ditch by voluntary work. The ditch was to extend along the side of the road south of the village. The people rallied to the proposition and considerable work was done but through lack of the services of an expert engineer the project so nobly conceived failed of its object.

The next attempt at drainage on an extensive scale resulted in a county ditch emptying into Maxwell creek. The engineer was E. A. Deiter. This ditch carried off a part of the surface water but only in a measure accomplished its real object. A few years later this ditch was cleaned out and in some places deepened, thus furnishing a fair surface drainage.

In 1915, on petition, a new tiled ditch was constructed at a cost of some \$15,000, a larger part of which was met by the benefited land owners. The new ditch follows practically the line of the old ditch until within some three miles of the old outlet, at which point it swerves, and empties into Mud Lake creek, formerly known to history as the Little Rock creek. This new ditch furnishes adequate drainage and will serve its purpose for many years to come.

A recent summary of Fairfax activities and advantages contains the following items: One jitney, one livery, one bakery, two hotels, one produce, three banks, two tinshops, one creamery, one gun club, one pool hall, cigar factory four churches, village council, one auctioneer, two orchestras, one drug store, one stock yard, one wood yard, one tailor shop, two ice dealers, a business block, one pop factory, insurance agents, one public school, one citizens' band, one harness shop, one water tower, two wagon shops, two section crews, three oil stations, expert electrician, two barber shops, one juvenile band, one bowling alley, real estate agents, two butcher shops, two picture shows, two lumber yards, one land company, one cement works, two jewelry stores, seven auto dealers, one printing office, four general stores, electric light plant, several dressmakers, M. & St. L. Railroad, four grain elevators, one commercial club, village water works, two parochial schools, two millinery parlors, two implement stores, two hardware stores, two shoe repair shops, three blacksmith shops, Chautauqua in summer, one little German band, one telephone exchange, two motorcycle garages, two automobile garages, one well drilling outfit, two photograph galleries, shade trees in abundance, one clothing and shoe store, one substantial stone jail, hunters and hunting dogs, clever amateur performers, competent village marshal, church societies and lodges, one dray and transfer line, several beautiful boulevards, several dealers in live stock, one music and stationery store, several miles of cement walk, lyceum course, fall and winter; one ball park and grand stand; village hall, 500 seating capacity; 1,050 progressive and sociable people; one depot, day and night agents; one fire department, well equipped; three confectionery stores and restaurants; good graveled roads leading into village; one 600-barrel mill, running night and day; several architects, contractors and builders; instructors in vocal and instrumental music; many beautiful homes and well kept lawns; two good village wells, with motor attach-

ment; local and rural telephone company; one postoffice, postmaster, lady assistant, four rural carriers; two baseball teams, basket ball teams, tennis clubs and other athletics; market for grain, poultry, live stock and every other produce from the farm; Western Union Telegraph and Northwestern and Tri-State long-distance telephone connections; two physicians and surgeons, two dentists, two attorneys-at-law, one veterinary.

Fairfax is surrounded by a thrifty and prosperous farming community. Some of the farmers are able capitalists, and are financially interested in Fairfax banking, manufacturing and other enterprises. Some of the most beautiful homes to be found anywhere are on the neighboring farms.

The Fairfax Commercial Club is a flourishing organization and has done much for the progress and betterment of the village. It fathered the project to carry the water mains to the stock yards, thus furnishing to the stock an abundant supply of fresh water. It encouraged the creamery project, approached the railroad company on the question of a site, and paid for moving away of the building which previously stood on the site. It was also prominent in the securing of the county ditch which has so materially improved the land in this vicinity. Perhaps one of its most important ideals has been the fostering of the Ft. Ridgely Park proposition. In these and many other ways the club has stood for the advancement of the village and its interests, and at the present time has many other projects under advisement.

The club was originated early in May, 1913, when an informal meeting was held at the village hall to consider the question of a regular commercial organization. At that time a village park was under consideration, and other matters of importance to the business men of the village were being considered to the extent that an organization seemed advisable.

May 16, 1913, a meeting was held with C. W. Heimann in the chair, and various sites for a possible park were informally discussed. A. E. Carver acted as clerk of the meeting. Those present at the meeting were H. E. Grasmon, Philip V. Ploof, J. F. Russell, Rev. Jacob Berger, Rev. J. J. Goergen, Rev. Im. F. Albrecht, William Bregel, Dr. A. M. Crandall, B. J. Schramm, A. S. Black, C. Bartelson, A. Rund, Emil Enger, H. Hultskampf, Frank Willett, C. C. Knudson, B. Bauernmiester, L. L. Palmer, John Iago, C. H. Hopkins, B. M. Weisberg, S. H. Gumpolen, L. Pullen, Charles Lammers, O. H. Grasmoe, J. C. Fullerton, A. E. Fenske, William Pullen, E. W. Wigley, F. H. Hopkins, C. W. Heimann and A. E. Carver.

The election of officers was held June 2, 1913, and resulted as follows: President, Frank H. Hopkins; vice president, S. H. Gumpolen; secretary and treasurer, Philip V. Ploof; steward,

Frank Willett. Those present were A. E. Carver, P. V. Ploof, Rev. Im. F. Albrecht, Rev. J. J. Goergen, E. H. Brown, A. E. Fenske, B. M. Weisberg, L. L. Palmer, S. H. Gumpolen, H. E. Grasmon, Frank Willett, Ed. W. Wigley, Henry Huelskamp, E. O. Enger, W. H. Pullen, Frank H. Hopkins, C. H. Hopkins, L. P. Pullen.

The present officers are: President, Frank H. Hopkins; vice president, S. H. Gumpolen; secretary and treasurer, Philip V. Ploof; assistant, C. O. Johnson. Membership committee, S. H. Gumpolen, A. S. Black, G. A. Rieke, W. A. Fiss, C. O. Johnson. Patriotic committee—C. H. Hopkins, Rev. J. J. Goergen, Rev. Im. F. Albrecht. Good roads and street committee—C. E. Clarkson, Dr. A. M. Crandall, Dr. Geo. H. Walker, Lee R. Pullen, Frank Pullen. Industrial committee—J. C. Braun, E. W. Wigley, W. E. Cleveland, R. H. Quinn, H. E. Grasmon. Entertainment committee—C. W. Heimann, A. E. Carver, H. F. Dickmeyer, J. C. Grams, E. H. Brown. Park committee—S. E. Dodge, Frank Willett, J. C. Fullerton, Dr. W. W. Brown, Rev. J. A. Rinkel.

Situated in the midst of one of the very finest Minnesota No. 1 hard wheat districts, it was natural that the attention of capitalists should be directed to the milling industry and in 1891, Daniel Katz, of New Ulm, started a flour mill. This mill, compared to the one now doing business in the city, was a small affair. It was a custom mill, grinding the farmers' wheat into flour and taking out so much "toll" for the grinding. Fairfax has received many accessions in business lines since the days that Mr. Katz opened his little mill. With her natural advantages and rich tributary territory, she is bound to secure many more in the future, both in commercial and manufacturing lines, but it is probable that her citizens will never again feel quite as elated as they did in those early days when the Katz mill opened its doors to receive the farmers' golden wheat and the wheels commenced to go round within its walls. It eventually passed into the hands of the Farmers' Coöperative Elevator Co., and is now replaced with a splendid fireproof brick elevator.

In 1898 a new mill was erected by Nichols & Hornberg (Luther Nichols and Albert L. Hornberg), the mill having a daily capacity of 90 barrels. It was operated continuously until the summer of 1900 when it was destroyed by fire.

A newer and larger mill was at once erected. It was known as the Phoenix Roller Mills, and was owned at the time of its destruction by L. Nichols & Co., the firm being composed of Luther Nichols, president; A. Leifer, vice president, and A. E. Leifer, secretary and treasurer.

This mill was threatened with fire Jan. 30, 1904. On that day (Saturday) a short time after the evening meal, the Pacific Elevator burned. The Pacific elevator was the first elevator erected

in the village and was built in 1883, directly adjoining the flat-house erected in 1882. The elevator was round, a style of elevator much in vogue in those days. The manager, Ed. Pehrson, and several friends were bathing in the engine room when fire broke out overhead. The elevator was destroyed entailing a loss of some \$7,000. The warehouse was saved.

The Phoenix Roller Mills and the residence of J. C. Fullerton were endangered but escaped the conflagration.

The roller mills, however, were not to be spared, for on the morning of Feb. 4, 1904, fire started under the feed mill at the southeast corner of the mill and the building was reduced to ashes, entailing a loss of some \$35,000, aside from \$30,000 in notes and papers, the personal property of Mr. Nichols, which, it was alleged, were in the office at the time. The mill had been running twenty-four hours a day, but had shut down on Tuesday and Wednesday nights on account of the scarcity of coal and grain. It was when the boiler was being cleaned out in readiness for Thursday's work that the fire was discovered.

The circumstances of the burning were believed to be suspicious. Wild rumors of various natures were afloat. Incendiarism was suspected. Criminal proceedings were brought and two trials resulted. At the first trial the jury disagreed. At the second trial the suspect was acquitted. The case attracted more than usual attention on account of the methods employed by the detectives in gathering purported evidence, and also by reason of the prominence of the counsel employed on both sides.

The county attorney, A. V. Rieke was assisted by Albert H. Hall, a well-known criminal lawyer of Minneapolis. The defense at the first trial was conducted by Frank M. Nye, prominent attorney and later congressman. At the second trial the prisoner was represented by Daily & Barnard, of Renville. Of this firm, Richard T. Daly is now on the bench of the Twelfth district, while L. D. Barnard is the present county attorney of Renville county.

Fairfax was without a mill for a year or so. Several meetings were held by the business men with the idea of securing another mill but the various projects did not materialize. Finally word was received that the mill was to be built by Minneapolis capital on the site of the Phoenix Roller Mills. Work was started in the fall of 1905 and in March, 1906, the present mill was completed.

The property was operated with varying success until several years ago when H. S. Comer took charge. Under his management many improvements were made at heavy expense, and the headquarters were moved from Minneapolis to Fairfax, the name being changed from the Crescent Milling Co. of Minneapolis to the Creseent Milling Co. of Fairfax. The present manager is

Herman F. Wright. The engineer, E. C. Allen has been an important factor in the building up of the mills.

Fairfax has long been a splendid market, and it is conservatively estimated that at least three-quarter million bushels of wheat are handled in this village. Three elevators besides the mill, handle wheat and coarse grain in large quantities. The Farmers' Coöperative Elevator Co., organized several years ago, brings farmers from territory claimed by near-by villages.

As already noted it has a splendid brick fireproof elevator, one of the best along the entire railroad. Christ Bertelsen is the buyer. Ernst S. Hagg is buyer for the Farmers' Grain & Stock Co. Emil Enger is buyer for the Eagle Rolling Mill Co. Ed. Steinberg is buyer for the Crescent Milling Co.

Besides handling grain the two elevators owned by the Farmers employ stock buyers and during the past year each of them enjoyed a good business in that line. Frank Brunner is stock buyer for the Farmers' Grain & Stock Co., and Paul Darkow works in that capacity for the Farmers' Coöperative Elevator Co.

The Farmers Grain and Stock Company of Fairfax, Minn., has a capital stock of \$12,500. The elevator is a structure built of frame, 28 by 40 feet and 32 feet high, having a capacity of 20,000 bushels and cost \$5,000. The present officers are: President, H. Schmechel; vice president, Einar Nelson; secretary, G. A. Boemmels; treasurer, J. I. Carson. The manager is Ernest S. Hagg, and Frank Brunner is the stock buyer.

An institution that has been of value to the business man and farmer since its establishment several years ago is the Fairfax Produce Co. This concern at Fairfax and its several branches do a gross business running well into hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. The company has made it possible for the farmer to receive the highest market cash price for all kinds of produce, and the local business men dispose of their produce to it at the close of each day's business. The company is owned by Benjamin E. Weisberg and Max Kaplan. The headquarters have been moved to Minneapolis, the former title being retained. A large business is still done at Fairfax, where the company maintains its accumulating warehouse.

The personal property tax payers in Fairfax for 1915 are as follows: Im. F. Albrecht, Anton Altman, Al. Aamot, Aamot & Huelskamp, A. G. Anderson, Aug. Schell Brg. Co., W. F. Borth, Frances J. Biebl, John Biebl, Geo. A. Biebl, Joseph Biebl, Benedictine Sisters, M. D. Brown, O. P. Bakke, Ed. H. Borth, Ed. Borth, Ed. J. Brunner, John Brunner, A. S. Black, John C. Braun, C. B. Bertelsen, E. H. Brown, E. W. Boyes, F. C. Boethling, Jos. Brunner, W. W. Brown, A. G. Briese, Jas. E. Burk, John Bianchi, Bregel Bros., Jos. Barthel, Anrelia Borth, E. G. Borth, Geo. F. Borth, Frank Bregel, Citizens State Bank, Clarkson & Johnson,

Caven Bros., Wm. Caven, J. A. Carlson Theo. Case, H. J. Carson, J. I. Carson, Ada Carson, Creseent Milling Co., A. M. Crandall, A. E. Carver, Mrs. Alb. Darkow, Chas. F. Dale, John Durbahn, F. C. Diekmeyer, H. F. Diekmeyer, Louis Diekmeyer, Diekmeyer Imp. Co., Wm. Diekmeyer, Annie Diekmeyer, Fred A. Dallman, V. Drexler, F. Daschner, E. A. Enger, Eagle Roller Mill Co., Lena Fenskeke, A. E. Fenskeke, C. A. Fenskeke, Wm. M. Fritz, Fairfax Produce Co., W. A. Fiss, Fairfax Coöperative Store, Fairfax Coöperative Elev. Co., Fairfax Hdw. Co., Fairfax Coöperative Creamery, Fairfax Dept. Store, Standard Printing Co., Math Finley, Wenzel Frank, J. W. Frank, Fred Frank, J. C. Fullerton, Harry Fullerton, Farmers Grain & Stock Co., J. J. Goergen, E. H. Grasmoen, H. E. Grasmoen, S. H. Gumpolen, C. J. Grams, G. A. Gabrielson, R. H. Greer, Fred Hamann, Hauenstein Brg. Co., C. W. Heimann, Huelskamp & Pullen, Leonora Hensel, Ernest Hagg, Henry Huelskamp, Henry Hahselbruch, J. M. Hinderman, H. Hinderman, Frank Hopkins, Gladys Hopkins, Hauser Lumber Co., R. J. Henderson, Illinois Oil Co., John Iago, Rose Iago, Joe Julius, Emil Just, Martin Johnson, Theo. Kaeghein, Jos. Kolb, Wm. Kiehn, C. O. Knudson, F. A. Kretsch, Willie Lenz, Ferdinand Lenz, H. J. Landsteiner, Landsteiner & Co., Ben Lammers, H. C. Lammers, Chas. Lammers, Chas. Marwede, Al Mangen, Clara Marti, L. H. Miller, Al. O. Mundahl, S. O. Mundahl, Midland Lbr. & Coal Co., John Meyer, Palma Nelson, N. P. Nelson, Nelson Bros., John Nealy, John Nestande, Sam Otley, Bert Olson, Henry Olson, Olson Bros., Myra Palmer, Mary Palmer, Ed. Palmer, L. L. Palmer, Alb. Palmer, Lee R. Pullen, Wm. H. Pullen, Frank Pullen, Phil Ploof, Peoples Store, G. A. Rieke, A. F. Rieke, Lonisa S. Rieke, Geo. Rieke, Gustave Remer, J. A. Rinkel, R. G. Reinke, Otto Reinke, Albert Rund, Dave Rondahl, F. J. Roberts, Ellen Russell, Jos. Ramweiler, Levi Smith, John A. Sell, Myrtle Sell, Standard Oil Co., H. Schipplick, Mabel F. Sell, August Sell, L. L. Swartz, J. W. Schramm, Emilie A. Sell, Isabella Schei, I. P. Schei, L. J. Stewart, Reuben Sell, John Schweiss, George Seesz, John Schroeder, Fred Sell, E. H. Schroer, St. Andrews Church, Geo. J. Saffert, State Bank of Fairfax, Henry Scheye, First National Bank, Frank Vait, Annie Wendorff, Fred Wendorff, E. W. Wigley, G. H. Walker, Louis Wellner, Jos. Winkler.

The Ben Franklin Post, No. 116, Department of Minnesota, G. A. R., was organized in 1888. The charter members were: L. H. P. Faus, 10, Mich. (dead); Reinhold Hummel, B, 15, Penn. (dead); John Kelly, F, 19, Wis., Morton; Jacob Brell; Henry Discher (dead); Wm. McGinnis (dead); Embrie Olson, D, 43, Wis. (dead); Peter Thompson, E, 22, Wis. (dead); Ormond Otterson (dead); Otis W. Newton, F, 41, Wis., Morton; Charles Knapp, H, 14, Wis., Franklin; George Yantz, G, 2, Iowa Cav., Redwood Falls; Peter Yantz, H, 22, Wis., Redwood Falls; Clement Treadbar, C, N. Y.

Cav., Franklin; Peter J. Latty, D. 1, Minn. H. A. (dead); Anton Shott, G. 2, Minn. Cav. (dead); John Tracy, C. 2, Minn. Cav. (dead); John Thompson, D. 8, Minn., Franklin; Hans Jenson, E. 2, Minn. (dead); Leroy A. Gilbert, H. 21, Iowa (dead); Christopher C. Coffee, F. 4, Wis. Cav., Excelsior; Horris G. Eaton, G. 1, Minn., Morgan; Frank Billington, K. 1, Wis. (dead); John F. Frank, A. 4, Minn. (dead); Samuel Shirwin, 1, Minn. H. A., Morton; Eric Erierson, E. 38, Wis. (dead); Sam Sherman, 118, N. Y. (dead); Lewis Owen, F. 19, Wis., Taylors Falls; W. L. Walburn, E. 174, Penn. (dead); Peter Henry, I. 8, Minn. (dead); Libbeus White, H. 6, Minn., Minneapolis; John Foley, A. 2, Wis., Franklin; Jerry P. Patten, H. 6, Minn., Morton; John Tracy, I. 27, Iowa (dead); Robert Henton, I. 11, Minn. (dead); Joseph Smith, E. 2, Minn. (dead); Wellington I. Dresser, G. 21, Wis., Morgan; J. K. Deming, D. 1, Wis. Cav. (dead); Louis Thiele, E. 6, Minn. (dead); Charles H. Hopkins, 13, Wis. L. A.

Those who have joined since then are: O. E. Hogue, E. Ohio, Murdock; E. M. Anderson, D. Brackett's Bat. (dead); George H. Miller, H. 14, Wis., unknown; Joseph Preston, R. 21, Vt. (dead); Lewis Walker, A. 6 Minn., unknown; Henry Blume, F. 64 Ill., Morton, Minn.; Joseph Thompson, G. 5 Minn. (dead); Michael Brazill, F. 4 Minn. (dead); Orren Tubbs, A. 61 N. Y. (dead); Reinhold Hummel, B. 15 Penn. (dead); John McIntosh, I. U. S. Dragoons (dead); Knute T. Rye, A. 1 Minn. (dead); James Lydden, K. 8 U. S. Reg. (dead); Daniel M. Hall, E. 41 Wis. (dead); Seymour Stevens, M. 1 Wis. H. A., Russell, Manitoba, N. W. T.; Wm. Chalk, I. 27 Iowa (dead); Chas. Bird, F. 9 Minn. (dead); Peter Heak; Patrick Gallaher, H. 16 Wis. (dead); Louis Hanson, I. 51 Wis.; Wm. E. Chaffee, N. Y. H. A., unknown; Jas. Fullerton, K. 4 Minn. (dead); Walter Doheny, I. Minn. H. A. (dead); Alfred Rouque, D. 5 Minn., Morton; E. M. Jurin, G. 10 N. Y., Puyallup, Wash.; Elbert Vanornum, D. 1 Vt. Art., Bird Island; Wm. Brown, D. 1 Minn. Cav. (dead); Fred Blume, 13 Ill. (dead); Ow. Davis, I. 12 Vt., Edmonton, Alberta, N. W. T.; John T. Cosentine, C. 12 Wis. (dead); Michael Murphy, C. 2 Mo. Cav. (dead); Patrick Heffron, I. U. S. (dead); Wm. McGowan, I. Minn. Mt. Rangers, Morton; Nelson V. Campbell, H. 51 Wis., North Yakima, Wash.; Dennis Oshey, I. U. S. L. A. (dead); Andrew J. Bliss, I. 8 Minn. (dead); Daniel Aldrich, D. 39 N. Y. (dead); James Allison, Marine Service, Franklin; Thomas Davanna, D. 17 Wis. (dead); John Lane, 10 U. S. Reg., St. Paul; Frank Shermer, I. 8 N. Y. (dead); H. D. Jackson, D. 1 N. Y. Art., Mpls.; Edelberty Corey (dead); John Swoboda, I. 26 Wis., Olivia; Silas Brooks, Milk River, Alberta, N. W. T.; George Cory; James Blake; Andrew Saylstrom, B. 1 Minn. H. A.; Solomon Anderson, A. 1 Minn.; Isaiah H. Snell, H. 2 Minn. Cav., Morton.

Peter Henry, 8th Minn. Vol. Inf., was the first commander in 1888. Since then the commanders have been: Joseph Smith, E. 2 Minn., 1889-90; Jerry Patten, H. 6 Minn., 1891; Chas. H. Hopkins, 13 Wis., L. A., 1892-93; John Foley, A. 2 Wis., 1894; Andrew J. Bliss, 13 Wis. L. A., 1895; Chas. H. Hopkins, 13 Wis., L. A., 1896; Louis Thiele, E. 6 Minn., 1897; J. K. Demming, D, 1 Wis. Cav., 1898-99; Eric Ericson, F. 38 Wis., 1900; Otis W. Newton, F, 41 Wis., 1901-05; Sam Sherman, 118 N. Y., 1905-10; J. K. Demming, D, 1 Wis. Cav., 1911-12; John Kelley, E, 19 Wis., 1913-15.

Charles H. Hopkins was the first adjutant. He served until 1891, and since then the adjutant has been Jerry P. Patten.

In the above list of regiments, Volunteer Infantry is understood where no other branch of the service is specified.

Fort Ridgely Circle of Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic of the Department of Minnesota. On January 26, 1911, Department President Emma J. Hicks, of Duluth, Minnesota, organized and installed the officers of Fort Ridgely Circle No. 81, with a charter membership of 21, and Veteran Chas. H. Hopkins, a social member. The following officers were elected and duly installed: Mrs. Effa Wallace, president; Gladys Hopkins, senior vice-president; Mrs. Mary Carver, junior vice-president; Mrs. Anna Olson, treasurer; Mrs. Susan M. Hopkins, chaplain; Mrs. Emma Anderson, conductor; Mrs. Catherine Otley, assistant conductor; Lena Fenske, guard; Agnes Otley, assistant guard; Mazie Wallace, secretary; Mrs. Emma Henderson, patriotic instructor. Mrs. Jennie Greer, Mrs. Emma Marlow, Alma Fenske, Ida Fenske, Mrs. Elizabeth Kennedy, Mrs. Ellen Russell, Mrs. Carrie Pullen, Mrs. Catherine Blake, Mrs. Helen Robberts, Martha E. Lulare.

On May 26 three new members were added. On Jan. 26, 1912, Mrs. Mary Carver was installed as president and Mrs. Ellen Russell as secretary for that year.

On Jan. 13, 1913, Gladys Hopkins was installed as president and Mrs. Ellen Russell as secretary for that year by Past Post Commander Chas. H. Hopkins, as installing officer. There were added in 1913, thirteen new members and two sons of veterans. On Jan. 8, 1914, Mrs. Ellen Russell was installed as president and Mrs. Jennie Greer as secretary by Past President Mrs. Susan M. Hopkins. On Jan. 14, 1915, Mrs. Ethel Pullen was installed as president and Mrs. Mary Rienke as secretary, by Past President Mrs. Ellen Russell, as installing officer. Three new members were added this year and seven sons of veterans, making a total membership of 41. On Jan. 13, 1916, Mrs. Jennie Greer was duly installed as president and Mrs. Ellen Russell as secretary, by Past State Department Commander Chas. H. Hopkins.

This circle is enlisted to work in the interest of the Fort Ridgely State Park, and have taken part in all the exercises on

Decoration Day each year and celebrations on anniversary days, and will continue to give its influence in helping develop this historic ground to its full merits.

FRANKLIN VILLAGE.

Franklin is one of the thriving villages of Renville county. It is a pleasant hamlet of good homes and busy business streets, with many more shade trees than are usually found in a town that is so comparatively new. The village is located on the Minneapolis & St. Louis, at the corners of sections 11 and 12, 1 and 2, Birch Cooley township.

It was platted in the fall of 1882, the land being the homestead of Halleck Anderson, an early settler. In the winter of 1881-82 work was commenced on the railroad grade through the village and the grade was completed, rails laid and the first train service established in the first part of November, 1882. A box car served as the first depot. The first business house was built by E. S. Johnson on a street extending south from the depot, but after the town was platted this was found not to be the main thoroughfare and Mr. Johnson moved his building to the southwest corner of block 1. In moving, the building was wrecked by a severe wind storm just as it was nearing its new foundation, being thrown over and split into several sections. A "bee" was organized and the building was again put together and placed on its foundation, after which it was occupied by the postoffice. E. S. Johnson, postmaster, and the firm of Hohle Bros., who conducted a general merchandise business. A blacksmith shop was built by Nils Anderson in block 2. A hotel was built by Peter Johnson on the northwest corner of block 5. A general store building was built by Peter Henry on lot 20, block 2. T. Mackintyre and J. M. Johnson also built a general store building which ended the building in the fall of 1882. Ed. H. Anderson had built the first residence building that year.

During 1883, J. A. Bergely, T. Tweet, M. Casey, U. Tibbits and John Frieze built each a business building.

Martha E. Johnson, now Mrs. J. L. Jacobs, was the first child born in the village, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Johnson.

The first school house was started in 1883 and completed in 1884. This was a frame building of two rooms. In 1899 a 56 by 60 brick structure two stories high was built. This is a modern eight-room building. The addition of a manual training hall was made in 1914, when the Woodmen hall adjoining the school house block was purchased.

Electric light and power service was established in Franklin in 1914, when the Wherland Electric Co., of Redwood Falls, Minn., extended their lines to this village, giving a 24-hour service a day.

A complete waterworks system was put in about 1896. The supply tank is of 1,000 barrels capacity and rests on a tower eighty feet high. The tower was first constructed of wood, but later changed to steel.

The Citizen's Milling Co. of Franklin was organized in 1907 to take over the old mill and property of the Franklin Milling Co. The old mill was completely overhauled at that time and new machinery put in, bringing the plant up to date in every respect. This plant was operated until June, 1913, when it was destroyed by fire. As soon as possible after the fire the stockholders were called together, plans for rebuilding the present mill were formulated and Jan. 1, 1914, the new mill started grinding. The first officers of the company were: B. F. Weber, president; A. S. Erickson, vice-president; A. J. Olin, treasurer; C. A. Fleming, secretary. The present officers are: A. S. Erickson, president; J. H. Elstad, vice-president; Geo. Forsythe, treasurer; C. A. Fleming, secretary. The plant is located on a private sidetrack of the M. & St. L. Ry., and is of 100 barrels' capacity wheat flour and 50 barrels' capacity rye flour. The capital stock is \$25,000. Credit should be given the business men and farmers around Franklin who made this plant possible by investing their funds when money was needed to rebuild the burned plant.

The Franklin Lutheran Cemetery is located in the southwest corner of section 8, in Camp township. The school house is located in the extreme southwest corner of the section, and north of the school grounds is the cemetery. The cemetery is controlled by the Norwegian Lutheran church of Franklin and was laid out in the winter of 1867.

Franklin is ninety-five miles southwest of Minneapolis, has a population of about 550. It has Catholic, Methodist, Norwegian Lutheran churches, two banks, a hotel, four grain elevators, and a flour mill. A weekly newspaper, the Tribune, is published.

A brief business directory follows: P. A. Brown, automobile agent; Citizen's Milling Co. (A. S. Erickson, president; Henry Bluhm, secretary; George Forsyth, treasurer), flour mill; Citizen's State Bank (capital, \$17,000; president, Henry Halverson; vice-president, Edw. F. Johnson; cashier, Otto Erickson); Herman B. Cole, physician; Otto Erickson, insurance agent; Albert Erlandson, general store; William Fox, fuel; Franklin Farmers' Elevator Co. (J. C. Farrell, president; Geo. Forsyth, secretary; A. J. Anderson, treasurer; Oscar Johnson, agent); Franklin Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Co. (Wm. A. Johnson, president; J. C. Farrell, vice-president; Fred Tower, treasurer; Wm. Fox, secretary); Franklin Automobile Co. (H. B. Cole, C. E. Freeman, A. J. Olin); Franklin Farmers' Co-operative Shipping Association (F. H. Gallery, manager); Farmers' Equity Shipping Association (O. M. Schott, manager); Franklin Independent Elevator Com-

pany (William Fox); Franklin Local and Rural Telephone Co.; Franklin Mercantile Co. (A. S. Erickson, president; Jno. Curran, secretary and treasurer), general store; Franklin Produce Co. (Benjamin Weisberg, Max Kaplan), J. B. Tweet, manager; Franklin Tribune, Julius L. Jacobs, publisher; Chas. H. Gilbert, restaurant; Great Western Elevator Co., Julius H. Anderson, agent, William L. Grimes, livery; Henry Halvorson, garage; Hauser Lumber Co. (Henry Hauser, president; Chas. Lammers, secretary; G. A. Rieke, treasurer); Julius L. Jacobs, publisher of the Franklin Tribune; Johnson Bros. (Edward, Martin and Andrew), shoes and jewelry; Edwin S. Johnson, postmaster; Luke H. Kirwan, drugs; Andrew Lund, harness; Lynch & Son (Jas. W. and Chas. L.), real estate; S. O. Mundal, bakery; Geo. Nelson, blacksmith; Olaf Nelson, blacksmith; U. G. Orris, pool hall; Pacific Elevator Co., Vie Lindquist, agent; Andrew H. Pederson, barber; Poss and Freeman (A. Poss, hardware; C. E. Freeman, lumber and furniture, undertaker); Jos. C. Sampson, general store; State Bank of Franklin (capital, \$15,000; surplus, \$15,000), Anthony Poss, president; A. J. Olin, cashier; Geo. Steen, shoes; S. Steffenson, tinsmith; Clarence J. Wagner, meats; Jacob C. Wagner, confectionery; Wellington and Birch Cooley, Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co. (Jno. Drury, president; Jno. Head, secretary); B. F. Ziegler, railway express and telegraph agent.

Village lots in Franklin were first assessed in 1883. The principal owners were Ellen M. Anderson and a party who was designated by the term "Unknown." Those who had already secured lots were: Jacob Friess, lots 13 and 14, block 1; Edwin Johnson, lots 15 and 16, block 1; Thomas Tweet, lots 17, block 1; lots 17, 18, block 2; Henry Jenson, lot 19, block 1; T. P. McIntyre, lot 20, block 1; John M. Johnson, lot 21, block 1; Maggie Anderson, lots 15 and 16, block 2; Peter Henry, lots 19 and 20, block 2; Fuller & Johnson, lot 21, block 2; H. L. Ihle, lot 1, block 4; John Dixon, lot 5, block 4; Peter H. Johnson, lots 13 and 14, block 5; J. A. Bergley, lot 10, block 6; George O. Steen, lots 12 and 13, block 6; Margaret Casey, lot 14, block 6.

(Note. The above history of the early days of Franklin has been prepared for this work by Julius L. Jacobs.)

HECTOR VILLAGE.

Hector, an attractive and enterprising village, is eighty miles west of Minneapolis on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. The famous "Yellowstone Trail" from Chicago to Seattle runs through here and by road it is eighty-seven miles from Minneapolis.

Hector has grown rapidly during the past five years, a fact due chiefly to the splendid agricultural showing of the com-

munity and to the way the farmers and town people have co-operated together for the welfare of all. At present the population is very close to 1,000 and each year sees new residences built and other improvements made.

A great deal of shipping is done each year from Hector and many carloads of grain and stock go from here. The stores and business places are modern and up-to-date, and many of them are of brick. The business men are progressive and keep only the best in their lines. Many fine modern homes are to be found here and the well-kept lawns and shade trees add to the beauty of the place. The high school is one of the best in the state. The people are loyal and wideawake and are always working for the interest of the village.

The land around Hector is gently rolling and was at one time prairie, but is now nearly all under cultivation and dotted with beautiful groves and prosperous looking farm buildings. The soil is a heavy black loam with a clay subsoil.

Hector has six churches as follows: The English Methodist, Swedish Methodist, Swedish Lutheran, German Lutheran, Catholic and German Evangelical. The English Methodist congregation is making plans to build a new \$10,000 edifice and the work will be started next spring. Rev. Lawrence Radcliffe is the pastor. The Catholic church does not have a pastor just at the present time, but Rev. Father Anthony Scholzen, of Bird Island, has charge of this parish and comes here every other week. All of the other churches have their own pastors, Rev. J. Kulberg being the pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church; Rev. H. W. Krull, pastor of the German Lutheran church; Rev. W. G. Rath, pastor of the Evangelical church, and A. G. Hultgren, pastor of the Swedish M. E. church. In addition to the above religious denominations, the Seven-day Advents also hold meetings each week in the homes of their members.

Less than forty years ago the present site of Hector was one of the most unlikely spots that could be imagined for the location of a thriving, active village. Marshes and mud holes furnished a home for muskrats and a haunt for wild water fowl. In the firm places among the swales wound the desolate track of the old Cedar Mill-Hutchinson-Hector-Plainfield-Beaver Falls stage route. In Hector township the stages stopped at the Hector postoffice, kept by John Baker in the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 2 and at the Plainfield postoffice, kept by J. B. Perkins in the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 30.

The home of August Mahn, partly a log house and partly a dugout, was 1,500 feet northwest of the present railway station, and the home of August Prelwitz was some 3,000 feet southeast of the present station.

Hector had its beginning in 1878, when the crew of the railway construction company came through. On the future site of the village the Lang warehouse (now succeeded by the V. H. Smith elevator) was erected, by Charles Lang, of Hastings, Minn., and was operated by his son, William F., who was also the first station agent under the management of the railroad construction company, and had as his telegraph operator, Harry W. Clark, with headquarters in the warehouse, until the depot was completed. When the construction company turned the track over to the H. & D. railway company, now a part of the C. M. & St. P. railway system, Harry W. Clark was appointed as station agent and operator by the H. & D. company. In July of the same year, M. Abbott moved his stock of goods from Lake Preston and squatted on the townsite of Hector until it was surveyed. In the same month Cornish & Bourne started the first lumber yard and built an office in the main street near the depot. Sometime during the summer Hogland and Stranberg squatted on the townsite and put up a shanty, which was used for a blacksmith shop. They cut a stack of hay, stacking it on the ground now occupied by the State Bank of Hector. The townsite was surveyed in September, 1878, and the lumber yard and office was moved west of the depot to the place now known as the McGregor lumber yard. M. Abbott built his store on lot 1, block 4. In September, W. D. Griffith came from Hutchinson and built on lot 2, block 3, and opened for business the first of October, 1878. C. H. Nixon came from Ft. Ridgely and built a store on lot 24, block 4, and opened for business about November 1, of the same year.

Oscar H. Baker built the first dwelling house in the fall of 1878 on lot 1, block 7, and his son, Guy, was the first child born in the village. W. D. Griffith was commissioned as postmaster Oct. 8, 1878, and the supplies were moved from the farm of John Baker to the store of W. D. Griffith. The Plainfield postoffice was discontinued a few months later. John Trueman, a carpenter from Fort Ridgely, after completing the store building for C. H. Nixon, built a drug store for B. A. Knapp, and a hardware store for himself on lot 7, block 3. J. B. Perkins erected a hotel on lot 2, block 4, and started serving the public about Jan. 1, 1879.

In 1879 there was an impetus to the growth of Hector. Ames & Archibald erected a warehouse about a block east of the depot, now the site of the Farmers' Grain Exchange. M. T. Cornish erected a residence in lot 1, block 5. In the spring of 1879 Nelson & Peterson, of Red Wing, built a hardware and furniture store on lot 23, block 3. The first school in the village of Hector was taught by Minnie Padden in a room over the kitchen of J. B. Perkins' hotel in the spring of 1879. Religious services were conducted by Rev. George Potter, of Boon Lake, the hotel being the place of meeting. In the spring of 1879, James Chapman started

the first meat market. Andrew Strom arrived the same year and built a combined store and residence, but did not put in a stock of goods until the following year. G. F. Bergram opened a blacksmith shop in 1879 on lot 12, block 1. Frank Deming opened a lumber yard, afterward sold to Henry Stockman. Miles P. Clark came in from Ft. Ridgely and opened a hotel on lot 1, block 3.

In 1880, Bart W. Schouweiler opened a general store on lot 1, block 7, with a house in the rear. Louis Thiele opened a general store in lot 2, block 4. Thiele's building was on the corner, facing the right of way, west of the hotel, which faced the same way. John Pfefferle, from New Uhn, opened a saloon on lot 18, block 3.

Village lots in Hector were first assessed in 1880. Those who had already secured lots were: M. P. Clark, lot 1, block 3, lots 12, 13, block 4; W. D. Griffith, lots 2, 3, block 3; O. H. Clark, lot 4, block 3; S. Pierson, lot 5, block 3; H. W. Clark, lot 6, block 3; John Trueman, lots 7 and 10, block 3, lot 20, block 4; Ulrich Baderscher, lots 8, 9 and 12, block 3; Louis Seultzer, lot 11, block 3; Arnold Vincent, lot 14, block 3; James Chapman, lot 15, block 3, lot 1, block 6; John Pfefferle, lot 18, block 3, lot 15, block 8; Geo. R. Peacock, lots 16 and 17, block 3; Nelson, Peterson & Co., lots 19, 22 and 23, block 3; S. Iverson, lot 20, block 3; J. Westover, lot 24, block 3, lot 4, block 6; M. Abbott, lots 1, 4, 5, 8, block 4; J. B. Perkins, lots 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11, block 4, lots 22, 23, block 4; J. H. O'Brien, lot 9, block 4, lot 17, block 7; Frank Camp, lot 16, block 4; B. A. Knapp, lot 17, block 4; C. H. Nixon, lots 21, 24, block 4; M. T. Cornish, lots 1 and 4, block 5; S. H. Corse, lot 5, block 5; John L. Egbert, lot 8, block 5; Wm. Marshall, lot 2, block 6; Francis Hadley, lot 5, block 6; O. H. Baker, lots 1 and 4, block 7; Margaret Doyle, lot 2, block 7; Andrew Strom, lots 5 and 8, block 7; John Trueman, Jr., lot 9, block 7; Chas. Peterson, lots 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, block 7; Uriah Tibbets, lot 16, block 7; Hoglund & Strandburg, lots 2 and 3, block 8; N. P. Nordquist, lots 6 and 7, block 8; Amund A. Dahl, lot 10, block 8; August Land, lots 11 and 14, block 8; Chas. Schaffer, lot 18, block 8; W. B. Dodge, lot 19, block 8; E. Dodge, lot 23, block 8; Peter S. Hanson, lot 10, block 13; John Carson, lots 1 and 4, block 14; Emily Johnson, lot 2, block 14; Kate Turner, lots 8 and 9, block 14.

In 1881 the first newspaper was printed, the paper appearing for the first time in June as the Hector "Mirror," with E. D. Morris, editor. Feb. 23, 1881, the village of Hector was incorporated and the first election was held March 11, the same year. There were seven good stores in the village at this time.

The first lawyer in Hector was W. C. White.

In 1882 the village had a population of 250 and a directory of that year shows the following activities here: five dry goods

and grocery stores, two drug stores, two hardware stores, one millinery, one furniture and one jewelry store, two blacksmith and wagon shops, one harness shop, a shoe shop, a paint shop, two meat markets, one livery stable, one lumber yard, three hotels, four saloons, two elevators capable of storing 60,000 bushels of grain, one lawyer and one physician.

In contrast to the summary of 1882, the summary of 1915 is an interesting study. It is as follows:

Theo. C. Albrecht, garage; A. Albrecht, blacksmith; Oscar A. Allen, lawyer; Aug. B. Anderson, grain elevator; Mrs. Charlotte W. Anderson, milliner; Beck Bros. (Jno. and Andrew), meats; Gust F. Berggren & Son, blacksmiths; Peter A. Berggren, photographer; Carl Bergman, painter; Berry Bros.' Milling Co. (Alfred Berry, president; G. M. Berry, secretary and manager), flour mill; Ralph Braithwait, farm implements; Ed. Boeck, tailor; Frank Dodge, proprietor of the Hector House; B. Brechet & Co. (B. Brechet, Chas. and Frank Wedin), general store; C. Coolidge & Son, restaurant; Commercial Hotel, Jno. F. Davis, proprietor; Harry L. D'Arms, physician; Henry S. Deming, railway express and telegraph agent; Fred B. Dodge, barber; William B. Dodge, barber; Frank Doney, barber; A. L. Erickson, variety store; Geo. S. Eichmiller, cashier of the State Bank of Hector; Aug. M. Ericson, dentist; Fred Foesch, restaurant; Farmers' Grain Exchange Co., Harry Munson, agent in grain elevator; Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank (capital, \$20,000; A. E. Schroeder, president; W. B. Strom, vice-president; S. W. Anderson, cashier; A. B. Dahlgren, assistant cashier); Hector Land Co. (O. A. Allen, F. R. Stocker, O. E. Smith); William J. Hager, jeweler; T. Hanson, garage; Hector Creamery Co., J. C. Past, manager; Hector Elevator Company, Geo. Hokanson, manager; Hector Mirror, Ernst W. Nobbs, publisher; Hector Produce Co., Jno. Koehler, manager; Hector Telephone Exchange Co. (S. W. Anderson, president; H. L. Torbenson, secretary; A. L. Ericson, manager); Hector Waterworks, M. A. Cummings, manager; Hirt & Son (Jos. and A. E.), express; J. H. Herrman, hardware; Chas. H. Holberg, harness; Frank and Charles Hamilton, painters; Harry W. Nelson, photographer; Johnson Hardware Co. (Geo. Johnson, president; Leonard Johnson, vice-president; A. E. Schroeder, secretary and treasurer); Richard Johnson, pool hall; Kemble & Wilson, painters and furniture repairers; Jacob Kaplan & Son, general store; H. E. Koehler, general store; R. B. Lorenz, restaurant; Harley E. McClaren, veterinary surgeon; Lindberg Brothers, restaurant; McGregor Bros. & Co., Anton T. Lindblad, agent, lumber; Harry E. McKibben, physician; Monarch Elevator Co., E. L. Griffin, agent; Chris. Nelson, blacksmith; Nelson Bros. (Swan P., Edw. and Alfred P.), general store; Ernst W. Nobbs, publisher of the Hector "Mirror"; Emery O. Olson, garage; Jerpe

& Nelson (William Jerpe, Ole M. Nelson), general store; Phillips Bros. (Ira H. and William A.), lands; C. Schwarzkopf, blacksmith; Schwarzkopf Bros. (Albert and Eugene), hardware; Victor H. Smith, grain elevator; State Bank of Hector (capital, \$25,000; surplus and profits, \$25,000; G. K. Gilbert, president; H. A. Reed, vice-president; G. S. Eichmiller, cashier; H. L. Torbenson, assistant cashier); Stearns Lumber Co., Henry Timmes, agent; W. B. Strom Drug Co. (Wm. B. Strom, Chas. J. Whitney, Russell F. Clarke); W. B. Strom, postmaster; E. W. Thurston, livery; Ezra Town, billiards; T. Tegner, livery; Mrs. Sophia Wedin, confectionery.

The oldest business establishment in Hector is the blacksmith business of G. F. Bergram. He opened his shop on lot 12, block 7, in 1879, and still continues there.

The oldest retail establishment in Hector is the W. B. Strom Drug Company. In 1879, Andrew Strom came to Hector from Beaver Falls, and built a combined store and dwelling house. In 1880 he put in a stock of drugs and general merchandise. W. B. Strom was associated with his father and continued the business after the father's death in 1892. In 1908 the W. B. Strom Drug Company was formed by W. B. Strom, R. F. Clark and C. J. Whitney. The postoffice is in this store and the company is one of the most important in the village.

The next oldest store is the general store of Barney Breehet in lot 19, block 3. The store was established in 1893 and has undergone several changes of location.

The next oldest establishment is that of the Johnson Hardware Company. In 1895, George Johnson and Hans P. B. Peterson, under the firm name of Johnson & Peterson, bought out Erickson & Whitney and engaged in business on lot 4, block 7. Later A. E. Schroeder took the place of M. Peterson in the firm and the Johnson Hardware Company was incorporated. The Hector Lumber & Supply Co., a large organization, had passed into the possession of the Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank and C. H. Freeman. In 1905 it came into the possession of the Johnson Hardware Company, and the Johnson Hardware Company moved to the location of the Hector Lumber & Supply Company, lots 21, 22, 23 and 24, block 3. The building was burned in the spring of 1915, and a large new block erected, the company, in the meantime, occupying its former location in lot 4, block 7. The firm deals in shelf and heavy hardware, furniture, farm machinery, motoreycles, automobiles and undertakers' supplies. It also deals in live stock. The new building is 50 by 80 feet, with full basement and full second story. Besides this, the company has a large warehouse and stock barns. The officers are: President, Geo. Johnson; vice-president, Leonard Johnson; secretary and treasurer, A. E. Schroeder.

Probably the next oldest concern is the mill of Berry Brothers, erected in 1899. The concern is composed of several brothers and was originally from Norwood where the company is still in business. Two of the brothers, Alfred and George, live in Hector and operate the Hector mill. "Berry Brothers' Best" is an excellent product and is in high favor with housewives. The other partners in the Berry Brothers' Milling Co. are: Oscar Berry, of Norwood, and Henry Berry, of St. Paul. The mill at Hector has a weekly capacity of 1,000 barrels. The mills at Norwood and Buffalo Lake are good-sized establishments and there is also a large warehouse at St. Paul which serves as the principal shipping point of the company.

The Hector Elevator Company, a farmers' co-operative elevator, has been in business since 1894. The company, with the exception of one year, when crops were very poor, has always paid a good dividend. It is regarded as one of the most reliable elevators in this part of Minnesota.

One of the oldest co-operative elevators in the state, the company does a general grain business, handling on an average about 150,000 bushels of grain a year. The Hector Elevator Company has the name of always paying the farmers the highest market prices for grain.

Much of the success of this company is due to the skillful and high-class management of George Hokanson, who stands high with the business men of the village and the farmers of the surrounding country. Last year the company paid in addition to the regular dividend to the stockholders a 4 cents per bushel return on all grain handled.

A business institution of Hector which plays an important part in the commercial life of the community is the Farmers' Grain Exchange Company, independent buyers and shippers of all kinds of grain, seed and fuel. The company was incorporated in 1912.

It is a farmers' coöperative elevator and is backed by some of the most substantial men in the community. The size of the business may be judged from the fact that each year approximately 160,000 bushels of grain are shipped out. The company pays the highest market prices to the farmers. The Farmers' Grain Exchange Company also does a big business in wood and coal.

The active manager of the company is J. H. Monson. Mr. Monson is a live wire and one of the best liked business men in the village. The officers are: Pat O'Donnel, president; A. E. Jung, secretary, and August Beske, treasurer.

In the Palace Theater Hector has a high-class movie house that is a credit to the village. Dr. A. M. Erickson, a well-known dentist of Hector, is the owner and manager. The Palace is

housed in a good building, and has a seating capacity of 400. The moral tone of the theater is high. Few theaters of so high a class are found in cities many times the size of Hector, and the establishment is a decided asset to the town.

The Hector Telephone Exchange is a company formed by local business men and farmers in the vicinity of Hector. The authorized capital of the company is \$25,000 and there are about 500 subscribers. There are about two miles of aerial cable and half a mile of underground cable in the village, besides many miles of lines in the surrounding country. The officers are: S. W. Anderson, president; John A. Johnson, vice-president; H. L. Torbenson, secretary, and G. S. Eichmiller, treasurer. The board of directors consists of S. W. Anderson, John Ad Johnson, H. L. Torbenson, G. S. Eichmiller and B. J. Butler. Alfred Ericson is manager of this company and has held this position for many years.

Hector was surveyed Sept. 11-14, 1878, by D. N. Correll on the southwest quarter of section 5, township 115, range 36, and filed April 9, 1879. The original owner was the Hastings & Dakota Railroad Company.

Hector was incorporated by act of the legislature, approved Feb. 23, 1881. The first election was held March 11, 1881, in charge of C. H. Nixon, O. F. Peterson and John Truman. The result of the election was as follows: President, W. D. Griffith; trustees, C. H. Nixon, O. F. Peterson and B. W. Schouweller; recorder, H. Simmons; treasurer, M. Abbott; justice, A. Strom; constable, James Chapman.

The village was reincorporated eight years later and a charter election held March 12, 1889, at the office of T. F. Deming, resulting as follows: President, Wesley Smalley; councilmen, A. R. Gress, E. G. Hagquist, A. Carlson; recorder, E. E. Cook; treasurer, W. D. Griffith; justices of peace, W. F. Grummons and Smith Dewees; constables, W. E. Kemp and E. O. Otness.

The present officers are: President, A. B. Anderson; councilmen, Ole M. Nelson, Geo. Hokanson, C. H. Holberg; recorder and marshal, M. A. Cummings; treasurer, H. L. Torbenson; justice of peace, C. H. Nixon and W. B. Strom; constables, Harry Schieble and C. H. Coolidge. The school board consists of: President, Geo. M. Berry; secretary, Henry L. Torbenson; treasurer, A. E. Schroeder; A. B. Anderson, O. A. Allen, W. B. Strom.

The opera house and village hall combine a large and handsome structure. In this building are the recorder's and marshal's office, council chamber, firemen's rooms, Commercial Club room, fire hall and opera house. The auditorium seats 400 people and has a stage that is adequate for all purposes.

Hector has its own waterworks system. The water is obtained from a well 376 feet deep and this produces an inexhaustible

supply of pure spring water. The village has a sewage system, electric lights, fire department, good cement sidewalks, both in the business and residential districts, and the main street of the town is wide and clean of all posts and telephone wires. Among the lodges in the town may be mentioned the Masons, Woodmen, Workmen, Modern Brotherhood, and Eastern Star.

The old town hall was built in 1891. The village gas plant was put in in 1903; the present slightly city hall was erected in 1906; the present town hall was erected in 1914; the contract for the electric lights from Bird Island was signed early in 1915; waterworks were first constructed in the village in 1896; extensive waterworks alterations and improvements were made in 1915.

The story of the town hall is an interesting one. It was built jointly by the village and township of Hector, and a few years later taken over by the township. It was purchased on Sept. 23, 1914, by Dr. A. M. Ericson, who converted it into the high-class Palace Theater. That same fall, Dr. Ericson erected the present town hall by contract as part of the purchase price of the property at the rear of the old building.

Hector has a first-class water system which gives adequate fire protection, a well organized fire department and good equipment. Wm. Jerpe is the fire chief and Joe Prelvitz the assistant chief. Both of these men take a great deal of interest in the department and generally the first to get to the scene of any fire. The equipment consists of two hosecarts, a hook and ladder and an elegant chemical engine. This apparatus is housed in a specially built fire hall in the lower part of the village opera house. All the members of the fire company are volunteers and are always on hand when their help is needed.

The park, originally a mud hole donated by the railroad company, occupies block 17. Through the efforts of the Ladies' Improvement Society it has been filled in and made into a veritable beauty spot in accordance with the plans of a landscape artist. There is a pretty bandstand, and the park is a delightful expanse of lawns, grand walks, trees, shrubs and flower beds. The officers of the Ladies' Improvement Society are: President, Mrs. A. B. Anderson; vice-president, Mrs. Henry Deming; secretary, Mrs. H. L. D'Arms; treasurer, Mrs. G. S. Eichmiller.

The Commercial Club is one of the live institutions of the town and has done a great deal during the past few years for the advancement of the community. W. B. Strom, the president, is one of the prominent business men of the town and under his direction the club has done a great deal of good along the line of road work, both in Hector and the surrounding country. The other officers of the club are: E. W. Nobbs, secretary; S. W. Anderson, vice-president; and G. S. Eichmiller, treasurer. The di-

rectors of the club are: William Jerpe, A. B. Anderson, George Berry and A. E. Schroeder.

Hector has been remarkably free from fires with the exception of a few weeks in the spring of 1915, when several serious fires took place. The largest was that of the Johnson Hardware Co. The F. R. Stocker residence, formerly the O. F. Peterson home, and one of the best in the township, went up in flames during the same season. The Snyder Livery barn, back of the opera house, burned and endangered the whole village. It was a rambling unoccupied building; the sparks lighted on roofs all over the village, and it seemed certain that at least the opera house would be destroyed. But by heroic efforts everything except the barn was saved. It was also during this season of fires that the private garage of J. J. Prelvitz burned with the Maxwell "Six," which was in it.

The personal property taxpayers in Hector in 1915 were: A. B. Anderson, O. A. Allen, C. Alvord, A. P. Anderson, S. W. Anderson, Mrs. Charlotte Anderson, Theo. C. Albrecht, Louis Anderson, Andrew Beck, J. P. Butler, Ralph Braithwait, B. Brechet & Co., H. R. Behrns, G. M. Berry, Berry Bros., Berry Bros.' Milling Co., A. J. Brown, G. F. Berggren, Beck Bros., Emil Beck, W. G. Benson, P. A. Berggren, Alf. Berry, Mrs. C. H. Coolidge, M. A. Cummings, R. F. Clark, W. A. Cords, H. S. Deming, H. L. D'Arms, Frank L. Dodge, Fred B. Dodge, W. B. Dodge, E. I. Dodge, J. F. Davis, Frank W. Donney, A. L. Erierson, A. M. Erierson, G. S. Eichmiller, C. P. Fredrickson, Farmers' Grain Exchange Co., A. G. Fredrickson, F. O. Foeseh, Chas. Fahlberg, H. A. Giltner, P. L. Griffin, A. S. Hallquist, C. H. Holberg, Amanda Hansen, J. H. Herrmann, Mrs. I. L. Hamilton, W. J. Hager, Hector Elevator Co., Hector Produce Co., A. E. Hirt, Leon B. Hawes, J. H. Hirt, Thomas E. Hanson, E. G. Hagquist, Hanson Bros., Weking Hallquist, Leonard Johnson, Geo. Johnson, Jerpe & Nelson, Johnson Hardware Co., Horace Johnson, F. A. Johnson, R. A. Johnson, William Jerpe, H. E. Koehler, J. Kaplan, C. A. Kight, John Koehler, H. W. Krull, J. G. Kallberg, O. M. Kiser, D. Koehler, Thomas J. Leary, R. B. Lorenz, John Lindberg, A. T. Lindblad, John Lundstrom, Dan Loftmann, Fred Lindekugel, Will Lindekugel, H. E. McLaren, Monarch Elevator Co., McGregor Bros. & Co., Otto Mortenson, J. H. Monson, F. G. Maselke, H. E. McKibben, W. B. Marshall, Ben Nelson, E. W. Nobbs, Godfrey Nelson, C. H. Nixon, Alf. Nelson, Nelson Bros., Edward Nelson, O. M. Nelson, S. P. Nelson, E. O. Olson, Pat O'Donnel, I. H. Phillips, Aug. Prelvitz, Victor Peterson, Joe Prelvitz, J. J. Prelvitz, J. C. Past, G. Riedler, Mrs. Lizzie Riedel, H. A. Reed, Rev. L. Radeliffe, F. H. Schwanbeck, Frank A. Swan, A. D. Swan, Strom & Clark, S. J. Shulson, Harry Schiebel, Alf. Sandien, O. E. Smith, Mrs. Carl Schwarzkopf, Carl Schwarzkopf, Alb. Selberg,

Schwarzkopf Bros., Alb. Schwarzkopf, John P. Swanson, V. H. Smith, A. E. Schroeder, Sterns Lumber Co., Eug. Schwarzkopf, W. B. Strom Drug Co., W. B. Strom, State Bank of Hector, Theo. Tegner, Thomas Tegner, H. L. Torbenson, Henry O. Tinnes, Ezra Town, Ernest Tesch, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, Thomas Torbenson, Ben Wolpert, Frank A. Wedin, G. W. Wisman, Mrs. J. A. Wedin.

MORTON VILLAGE.

Morton is located in the beautiful Minnesota valley in the southeastern part of Birch Cooley township, surrounded by the historic ground on which were enacted some of the most stirring scenes in the history of the Northwest. Nature here is unusually lovely, the rolling prairie not far away, ending abruptly and breaking into beautiful couleés and ravines heavily wooded and forming a wide expanse or natural park.

The village itself is well laid out on a flat, overlooked by the towering monuments erected to the friendly Indians and to the heroes of the battles of Birch Cooley. The picturesque contour of the waterworks tank situated nearby also adds to the beauty of the scene.

It is situated a hundred miles southwest of Minneapolis and thirty-three miles west of Winthrop and is the division point on the M. & St. L. Railway, and here is located the roundhouse. It is also on the new Luce Electric Short Line Railway, which is in process of building from Minneapolis to Brookings, and which will furnish short hauls for the people of Morton to the Twin City markets.

Surrounded, as it is, by the rich farm land of two counties, Morton is a scene of busy activities. Corn yields of over ninety bushels per acre show that this county is coming to the front, and the fine thoroughbred and dairy cattle herds with excellent shipping facilities give proof of its permanency. In former days a splendid fair was given here, but the withdrawal of state aid caused it to be discontinued.

Anyone who loves beautiful hills and the rugged natural scenery will surely enjoy living at or near Morton. The Minnesota valley for miles near this village is one continual park and some of the prettiest spots it is possible to find anywhere will be seen in a day's outing at this place. The spreading panorama of green fields and fertile valley, running streams and natural woods which one sees all about are sights one cannot help but enjoy, and a number of persons have compared the region with the Hudson valley and with other places of note, while others from prairie states have contented themselves with simply gazing in open admiration and exclamations of delight. This has been particularly true of the Iowa visitors.

Another point of interest to tourists is the site of the granite quarries, where years ago in the early history of the village several hundred quarrymen were busily engaged taking out building and monumental stone.

One can drive out from Morton either way and witness beauties of nature which in other sections of the United States people with automobiles would drive days to see.

Going south from Morton, the lace makers' house, the Indian Episcopal church and the Indian school will be seen to the right hand, while on the left is the Indian park, from which one of the prettiest views of the whole Minnesota valley may be obtained.

Going out north from Morton, one will see the stone markers which mark the historic spots in connection with the Sioux Indian massacre days and the Birch Cooley battle ground.

When visitors are at the Indian church, south of town, if they will go a quarter mile south and a mile east they will then see the old stone house of early agency and massacre days, and all along the highway will be seen markers recording the historic spots of that territory.

From the depot at Morton may be seen the two granite shafts, one erected in memory of the soldiers and others killed in the Birch Cooley battle and the other erected in memory of the friendly Indians. These stand near the fair grounds, overlooking the valley and the Morton granite quarries.

Morton has a flour mill with a daily capacity of 500 barrels wheat flour and fifty barrels rye products. It has a brick and tile factory with a capacity in a ten-hour day of 40,000 brick and 30,000 tile. Vast deposits of excellent granite for building purposes and ornamental stone are found in abundance.

The village has a good opera house, a moving picture theater, four hotels, two banks, a creamery and ice cream factory, a farmers' co-operative elevator and a thriving stock shippers' association.

A weekly newspaper, the Morton "Enterprise," is published. There are four churches: German Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal, Roman Catholic and Protestant Episcopal.

The public schools are housed in an excellent building and include eight grades, with high school, manual training and domestic science departments, each under competent teachers and supervision.

The fraternities are well represented here, there being flourishing lodges of the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Workmen, the Woodmen, the Rebekahs, the Degree of Honor, the Catholic Foresters and the Lady Foresters.

Attempts have been made at various times to establish a Commercial Club. Some years ago an organization flourished for a

while. The present organization is about a year old. The president is C. J. Cook, the secretary is H. F. Rubey and the treasurer is E. J. Kothlow.

The vicinity of Morton has attracted settlers since the earliest days. Even before the massacre, George Buerry, Henry Keartner and John Kumro had settled in this neighborhood. At the time the railroad came through there were quite a few farms along the old bottom road which passed some half a mile back from the present site of the village.

At this time the nearest residence was that of George Buerry. After the outbreak he had returned to his former claim, and at the time the railroad came through he was living in a stone house which is still standing. The house is located in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 30, Birch Cooley, northeast of the village, and on a piece of the old bottom road now discontinued.

To the southeast of Buerry, on the same road was John Edgett, in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 32.

Next to Edgett's was the home of John Kumro, in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 32. He had been here before the outbreak and had returned a year later than George Buerry.

Northwest from Buerry, along the same road, was John Vogtman, on the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 30. He was a son-in-law of George Buerry, and returned with him after the massacre.

Next up the road, in the same direction, lived Fred Blume. He occupied the farm which Henry Keartner had occupied before the outbreak. His house was in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 30.

To the west of the present site of the village, on the river bank, in United States lot, No. 5, section 36, lived H. B. Jackson.

The railroad construction crew came through this vicinity in the summer and fall of 1882, and stopped work some 400 feet from the river, further progress at that time being delayed on account of the rocky formation between the terminal point and the river. It was nearly two years before this rocky barrier was passed and the line continued, the road being pushed to the westward in the spring of 1884.

The first railroad train, the freight, arrived at the present location of the station, Oct. 22, 1882, the first engineer being Robert Meyer, and the conductor, Robert Brown. The depot was erected that fall.

In June, 1882, when the railroad had reached the farm of J. P. Patten, in Birch Cooley township, Frank Camp erected a shack in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 33, on Mr. Patten's farm, and put in a small stock of goods.

About the time that the railroad reached the present village, the village was platted on land owned by W. G. Bartley. Mr. Bartley presented the railroad with a part of the site. The west side of the present village is located on land originally owned by George Buerry.

W. G. Bartley, before the village was started, was conducting a mill two miles below the Birch Cooley battle grounds. At about the time the village was platted he moved to the townsite. He was appointed postmaster and kept the postoffice a short time in a shack which he erected on lot 24, block 9. This building has been moved and is now used by Fred Pfeiffer as a chicken house. For a time Mr. Bartley and his wife and son lived in this shack. Later they lived in a house moved in from the mill, this house moved in being later used as a part of a larger house. It is said that Bartley's little shack was the first building on the present site of Morton. There are others, however, who declare that this honor belongs to the McGowan shack.

Patrick McGowan was a railroad contractor. He owned a shack which he used along the line of the railroad to shelter himself and his men. In the summer or fall of 1882, when the grading crew reached Morton, Mr. McGowan moved the shack to what is now the rear of lot 27, block 15, just in back of where the postoffice is now located. In this shack he lived himself and here he kept some of his men.

The third building started in Morton was one started by Thomas H. Barkey, Oct. 20, 1882. Mr. Barkey came here, started the building, partly completed it, and then went away for the winter, renting it to James McConnell, the first section boss on the railroad. In the spring, Mr. Barkey came back and completed the building, 24 by 40 feet, two stories high. In 1884, when the railroad was continued west of Morton, he conducted a boarding house. In 1885 he put in a stock of drugs and groceries. He now conducts a hotel in the same building.

In the fall of 1882, the village site presented a scene of busy activity and building operations were started on several structures. Before the railroad was in operation, in October, lumber was hauled from Redwood Falls. All of these early buildings were small and of a primitive nature. They were made ready for occupancy during the winter though many were not really completed until the spring.

Patrick McGowan erected the structure that is now the post-office. He built it on the corner, lot 28 block 15. It was planned that Horatio Werring, then a storekeeper in Golden Gate, this state, and afterward a merchant of Fairfax, should open a store in this building, he being son-in-law to Patrick McGowan. Goods were ordered and in due time arrived. Mr. Werring, however, decided not to open the store. He went to Redwood Falls and

consulted with J. H. McGowan, the son of Patrick McGowan, and R. B. Henton, Sr., whose daughter J. H. McGowan had married. J. H. McGowan was a railroad contractor. R. B. Henton, Sr., had owned a farm north of Sleepy Eye, but in the spring of 1882 had sold out and that summer joined J. H. McGowan at railroad contracting. In the fall they had returned to Brown county, but failing to secure a suitable location at Sleepy Eye, where they had planned to spend the winter, they had rented a home in Redwood Falls. When Mr. Werring approached them, they decided to open his goods, establish a store, and remain in charge of the store until spring, at which time they planned to again resume railroad contracting. The goods originally intended for Werring were, therefore, unpacked and, on Dec. 13, 1882, J. H. McGowan opened the store. The families of Patrick and J. H. McGowan lived above the store. Mr. Henton, while living in Redwood Falls, spent part of his time with his daughter. A number of people were boarded by the McGowans until the hotel was completed. R. B. Henton, Sr., and J. H. McGowan continued in business together for several years. Then for six months Mr. Henton conducted it alone and then sold out to Mr. McGowan, who operated it until the spring of 1891, when R. B. Henton, Jr., who had then been working in the store for some time, was received as a partner. Dec. 12, 1903, the stock was sold to D. L. Crimmons, who, after conducting the place for a month, moved to Olivia, leaving the place vacant. Oct. 1, 1904, R. B. Henton, Jr., again opened the place, and conducted it until late in 1915, when it was sold to John Kothlow. The store occupies a slightly brick building which replaced the original frame building. The old frame building has been moved a few feet south onto lot 27, block 15, and is, as stated, used as a postoffice.

About the time that T. H. Barkey was completing his building, W. M. Miller opened a saloon on lots 16 and 17, block 14. Many buildings then went up at about the same time.

J. P. Patten moved the shack of Frank Camp from his farm to lot 7, block 9. Mr. Camp died at this place that fall, his being the first death in the village.

William Wall opened a saloon on lot 20, block 14.

John Terry erected a residence on lot 2, block 10.

John Smith opened a lumber yard not far from the present farmers' elevator on the railroad right of way.

John Clancy and John Cutting opened a lumber yard on the railroad right of way on practically the present site of the farmers' elevator. They also opened a hardware store on lot 13, block 13. Cutting did not live here. He came here, was dissatisfied with the way things were going, and went away, leaving Clancy for the time being to conduct the business alone.

J. P. Watson, a hardware merchant of Marshall, had J. P. Patten erect for him a building on lot 11, block 14, planning to enter into business here. But he gave up the project, and rented the place to Col. Tousley, who that fall opened a grocery store therein.

Henry Jorge and family came that fall and erected the house still standing on lot 21, block 1.

Ed. Bowler came at the same time and erected a house on lot 22, block 6.

John Tate, whose father had operated the hotel at Beaver Falls but who had later lived at Redwood Falls, erected a house on lot 21, block 9. He was a carpenter and worked on many of the first houses in the village.

Walter Neilson opened a blacksmith shop on the back of lot 21, block 9. This was on the back of the Tate property. Later the shop was moved to the lot in the rear of the present Commercial House and stood there until moved back, when the Commercial House was erected.

A flat house was erected northeast of what is now the Railroad Eating House, on the right of way. The buyer was Thomas Reed. The flat house has long since been burned.

H. B. ("Hobe") Jackson, who had lived on the river bank west of the village, moved in and opened the Eagle House on lot 25, block 14. Jerry P. Patten and his assistants were the carpenters who erected this building. The hotel was opened on Christmas Day, 1882.

The first child born in Morton was born at the Eagle House, the child of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Jackson. It died in infancy. The second was Mabel, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McGowan, born March 4, 1883.

Village lots in Morton were first assessed in 1883. The principal owners were: Geo. Berry, M. P. Hawkins, W. G. Bartley and C. E. Burhaus. The lots which were listed under the name of C. E. Burhaus were all transferred to Jos. L. Preston. Those who had already secured lots were: Mary Jorge, lot 21, block 1; Catherine Vogtman, lot 23, block 1; Emma Ahrens, lot 24, block 1; Mattie Berry, lot 1, block 2; Henrietta Berry, lot 2, block 2; Caroline Berry, lot 3, block 2; F. W. Blume, lot 1, block 5; Chas. Bowler, lot 22, block 6; John M. Clancy, lot 17, block 7, lot 13, block 13; Edith Camp, lot 7, block 9; John H. Tate, lot 21, block 9; E. S. Bartley, lots 23, 24, block 9; John Thau, lot 2, block 10; Wm. Forester, lot 15, block 10; Magdalena Wieland, lots 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10, block 13; W. Weiss, lots 6 and 7, block 13, lots 15, 16, block 15; Clancy & Cutting, lots 15 and 16, block 13; Michael Fernbach, lot 3, block 14; S. R. Miller, lot 5, block 14; T. H. Barkey, lot 10, block 14; Watson & Griffins, lot 11, block

14; Wm. Miller, lots 16 and 17, block 14; Wm. Wall, lot 20, block 14; Peter Berndgen, lots 21 and 22, block 14; H. B. Jackson, lots 23 and 24, block 14; Wm. Carr, lot 17, block 15; Walter Neilson, lot 13, block 15; Henton & McGowan, lots 24, 25, 26 and 27, block 15.

The first marriage in Morton was that of Walter Neilson and Mary Haggerty, Jan. 8, 1885.

The first physician in Morton was Dr. Prather. The next was Dr. R. D. Zimbeck. He was followed by the present physician, Dr. F. W. Penhall.

John A. Dalzell is the only lawyer who has ever lived in Morton. He is still here.

The granite industry has been an important factor in the life and growth of Morton. There is here an inexhaustible supply, and though it has been quarried for many years, there has been little apparent diminution in the ledges from which the rock has been taken. The quarries were first opened by T. Saulpaugh & Co., of Mankato, Minn. John Anderson, the present owner, was the foreman of the crew of ten men which started the work. This was in the spring of 1886. It was only a few months before the ground was covered with derricks and a force of fully 300 men at work. This continued until 1894, when labor difficulties and financial reverses caused the original owners to cease operations here. Mr. Anderson then leased the quarries and operated them on a smaller scale. In 1900, Mr. Anderson and his two sons, Fred and William, purchased the quarries and still conduct them under the name of the Anderson Granite Co. The output and workmanship are of the best. Dressed stone for building purposes and a splendid line of monumental work is turned out. With their excellent facilities they are able, should the necessity arise, to produce solid shafts of marble as much as fifty feet long.

Morton was incorporated in the fall of 1887 and an election duly held. The first president was R. B. Henton, Sr.; the first council, John Cronan, P. H. Coogan and T. M. Keefe. The first recorder was Mat. B. Bertrang. The first treasurer was M. H. Noack.

The first meeting of the council was held Sept. 12, 1887. President Henton was not in attendance and John Cronan presided. Bruce Brown was appointed village attorney and instructed to draw up the village ordinances. P. H. Ryan was appointed marshal. That being at the time of the quarry boom, a seal was adopted, giving a view of the quarry with a derrick in operation. Bids were asked for the erection of a village jail.

Oct. 3, 1887, the contract was let for the village jail. Dec. 12, 1887, a health board was appointed consisting of Dr. Zimbeck for three years, L. White for two years and Bruce Brown for one year. W. C. Keefe was appointed street commissioner.

The present officers of the village are: President, Michael Holden; council, Gustave Rohner, Samuel Steinke, L. D. Baker; recorder, Matt. Ruch; treasurer, F. W. Orth; assessor, E. C. Fuller; attorney, John A. Dalzell; justice of the peace, E. C. Fuller; constable, John A. McGuire; marshal, William C. Keefe.

Fire protection dates from June 5, 1888, when an engine was purchased from New Ulm. A few days later a 500-barrel cistern was built. The cistern was erected on lot 21, block 9, an engine house erected over it, and the engine duly installed. June 16, of the same year, E. L. Haskins was appointed chief of the fire department. Aug. 7, 1888, it was voted to purchase a hose cart.

The present waterworks were installed in 1901. A tank was constructed at the spring in the side of the bluff. This is used for household purposes and furnishes one of the best water supplies in the state. The force from this tank is sufficient to throw a stream of water over the highest building. But as an added precaution a tank has been constructed at the top of the bluff. This tank is pumped full of water and held in reserve for use in case of fire. The tank at the top of the bluff is of picturesque appearance and its situation gives a tremendous pressure to the water when used in fighting fires.

The village is supplied with electric power from the Wherland Electric Company at Redwood Falls. The lights were first installed in the village in the spring of 1910. Before that the streets were lighted with gas lights.

A brief business directory of Morton follows: John Anderson & Sons (Benjamin and Fred), monument works; Anderson & Van Vliet Furniture Co. (Wm. Anderson, W. F. Van Vliet); Andrews Hotel (Mrs. Wm. Andrews, proprietor); Bucholz Bros., City Dray Line; M. B. Bertrang, general merchandise; Cedar Rapids Oil Co. (Bucholz Bros., managers); Commercial Hotel (W. H. Swafford, proprietor); Columbia Clothing Co. (E. A. Lippert, manager); W. J. Chapman, City Bakery; Chris. J. Cook, jewelry; Geo. Doster & Co., hardware, furniture, machinery, undertaking; Dolliff Lumber Co. (Sam Steinke, manager); J. A. Dalzell, lawyer; J. J. Dallenbach, Riverside Dairy Farm; I. B. Engelhart, pool hall; Enterprise Newspaper (H. F. Rubey, proprietor); Farmers' Co-operative Grain & Stock Co., grain, stock, twine, machinery; F. Fescenmeier, garage; Mrs. Cora D. Fox, millinery; Mrs. Marie Galle, Bazaar; Gillen's Grill Room (Mrs. Roy Gillen, proprietor); Golden Rule (E. J. Kohlow, proprietor), general merchandise; Jos. Holmbar, painter; Grover C. Jaehning & Co., drug store; W. H. Kumro, photograph gallery; Keefe & Lussenhop, hardware, machinery, undertaking, furniture (D. F. Keefe, W. L. Lussenhop); W. C. Keefe, pool hall; Thos. Kelly, of Goodthunder & Kelly, dray line (Chas. Goodthunder); H. H. Logan, drug store (Red Cross Drug Store); Larson & Midtbruget, cafe

(R. E. Larson and L. M. Midtbruget); A. A. Lawton, shoe store; Morton Mercantile Co. (G. J. Simon, proprietor); J. A. McGuire, auto and horse livery; D. J. McCartan, dentist; Morton Telephone Co. (Chas. Orth, H. Beckman, F. W. Orth); A. F. Mahowald, harness shop and real estate; Minnesota Clay Works (N. P. Ostrum, manager; H. A. Sodergren, president); John I. Miller, barber; Morton Creamery Co. (P. L. Gardner, proprietor); Morton Ice Cream Factory (P. L. Gardner, proprietor); Morton Milling Co. (W. H. Castle, manager); G. A. Miller, Farmers' Home Restaurant; Morton Opera House (J. H. McGowan); New State Bank (F. E. Sylvester, cashier; Wm. Wichman, president; E. J. Kohlow, vice-president; E. W. Neunsinger, assistant cashier); O. W. Newton, postmaster; F. W. Penhall, M. D.; Pfeiffer & Rohner, meat market (Fred Pfeiffer, G. A. Rohner); Railroad Eating House, W. H. Swafford, proprietor; Matt. Rush, barber; Fred Storch, blacksmith; State Bank of Morton (F. W. Orth, president; Henry Beckman, cashier, R. B. Henton, vice-president; Clinton G. Orth, assistant cashier); Mike Singer, blacksmith; Julia Traynor, millinery; Henry Waldhoff, jeweler; R. W. Whittier, M. D.

The Farmers' Co-operative Grain Company was organized by F. E. Sylvester, cashier of the New State Bank of Morton, assisted by Wm. Wichman, August Daun, and others. The present building was erected in 1910 by the Great Western Elevator Company, of Minneapolis, who sold it to F. W. Orth and R. B. Henton, who operated there until Sept. 1, 1914, under the name of the Farmers' Elevator Company. August, 1914, they sold it for \$4,000 to the present company, who began operations Sept. 1, 1914. The building is 32 by 40 and 100 feet high, and has a capacity of 24,000 bushels of grain. From Sept. 1, 1914, to Feb. 1, 1915, this company bought 160,000 bushels of grain and 450 tons of coal. The elevator is well equipped, is operated by electricity, and does a splendid business, not only in grain dealing but also in selling fuel and state binder twine. Under the present manager, George D. Wells, many improvements have been made, including the erection of an office and the purchase of a sheller. The present officers are: President, August Daun; vice-president, Paul Schafer; secretary, F. E. Zumwinkle; treasurer, Charles Buscho.

Morton Telephone Exchange was established in 1902 by Charles H. Orth, who is the owner and manager. It is located on the second floor of the McCormick building over Jaehnnig's drug store. It has 100 subscribers in the village and operates an exchange for the Morton Rural Telephone Company. Its operators are Hattie Flink and Frank Niles. It has Northwestern and Interstate long distance connections.

The Morton Rural Telephone Company was established in 1905 at Morton with the following officers: President, F. W.

Orth; vice-president, Dr. F. W. Penhall; secretary, Henry Beekman; treasurer, Fred Watschke. It has 102 subscribers at present. The present officers are: President, Louis Zinne; vice-president, Frank Goelz; secretary and treasurer, Henry Beekman; and manager, Charles H. Orth.

Although Morton was given its present name in 1882, the postoffice continued to bear the name of Birch Cooley until Oct. 1, 1894, when, under Postmaster W. C. Keefe, the name was changed to Morton.

OLIVIA VILLAGE.

Nature has done much for Olivia, and to nature's gift has been added man's industry. It is a thriving city, in the center of the richest and most populous farming and dairying sections of the entire country.

Olivia has beautiful, well-shaded streets, a fine drainage system, beautiful homes, well-kept lawns, a fine system of water-works, a fairly well equipped fire department, and an excellent market for the buying and selling of everything needed. It has an excellent farmers' co-operative creamery, besides two produce stores, a farmers' elevator and four other elevators, a canning factory, a sash and door factory that turns out high-class work, a bottling works where sodas are manufactured from distilled water and ice cream manufactured for the trade in all the neighboring towns, a military company with headquarters in a new \$25,000 armory, a live commercial club, fine schools and churches, a public library, one pool and billiard hall, a bakery, a tailor, one men's clothing and furnishing store, one furniture store, one plumbing shop, an orchestra, five good general stores, a variety store, three restaurants and confectionery stores, two blacksmith shops, two garages, two livery barns, two meat markets, two millinery stores, a good jewelry store, an up-to-date drug store, two hotels, five real estate offices, four lawyers, two doctors, one veterinary surgeon, three civil engineers, a dray line, three dentists, a flour and feed store, two harness shops, two good hardware stores, three banks, a shoe store, two lumber yards, a good flour mill, a new automobile supply store, three barber shops, one moving picture theatre, one photograph studio and a number of contractors, carpenters, painters and masons. A good electric light plant furnishes electricity for a day and night service and is owned by the village.

There are five churches: Catholic, Swedish Lutheran, German Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal, Episcopal and the Evangelical Association.

Among the fraternities may be mentioned the Masons, Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen, the United Workmen, the Catholic Foresters, the Modern Brotherhood, the Bohemian Workmen and others.

Originally known as the "station on section seven," Olivia gave little promise of becoming the leading village of Renville county. Too near the already developed village on the east with its elevators, stores, bank, shops, making an easily accessible market for the neighboring territory, the station on section seven was doomed apparently to remain always an obscure cross-corner. But Fate smiled upon the little hamlet, and its ultimate prosperity exceeded the most sanguine hopes of its friends and promoters.

Among the earliest settlers in this vicinity were Charles Waldo, who came in the spring of 1872 and settled on section 24, township 115, range 35; John Nestor, who settled on section 18, township 114, range 35, at the same time; George Miller settled here in the fall of that year together with his brother Steve Miller; Jerome Bosley on section 30; Jim Kearns, Dennis Haley, section 26; William Morse and Jos. Hodgson—all in the year 1872. In the next few years the following appear among the names of the new settlers: Thomas Flanagan, section 26.; James Flanagan, his son; Michael Glenn; Chas. Humboldt; John E. W. Peterson, who settled on a timber claim; R. P. Peterson; H. S. Atchley, who settled on what is now known as the Windhorst farm; Lib. White, on a timber claim; Perry Burch and George Burch; John Buxton on the present John Kuske farm; Ira Everson; James L. White; William Warner, on the farm just north of the village known as the Dennstedt place; John Miller; John Barker, and Byron Gates. The land in the vicinity is of a gently rolling nature and appealed strongly to the early settlers as witness the large number that rushed in within the brief space of a few years. The judgment of the homeseekers has proved sound as the land chosen is now the highest priced in the county.

But as is usual in such cases the development of the farming community depended largely upon the development of a good trading center with its facilities for marketing products; merchants, alive and progressive, and able to extend the needful credit to the new settler, as well as religious and educational advantages—all of prime importance to the development of a successful agricultural community. In the course of time they were all supplied and flourished in the midst of abundant harvests; and the settlers on the land prospered in their close contact with the advantages of the trading center.

Olivia was surveyed in September, 1878, for the Hastings & Dakota Railway Co.

The first settler in Olivia was G. J. DePue, who met the first primitive needs of the settler by establishing a blacksmith shop in 1878. He also built a hotel known as the DePue House. His name is preserved in the designation of the principal residence street of the village. Isaac Lincoln and brother soon followed with the building of the first "flathouse" or elevator for storing

grain. In the same year P. W. Heins, of Beaver Falls, opened up a mercantile store and P. Berndgen a general store where the Grand Central hotel now stands.

Isaac Lincoln was appointed first postmaster and had his office located at the elevator. The next postmaster was W. P. Christensen. The Lincolns also built the first lumberyard, in 1878, and the following year erected a steam flour mill with a capacity of about eighty-five barrels a day. This mill was later sold to John Meldahl, finally passing into the hands of William Windhorst. Destroyed by fire it was not rebuilt. Another general store was opened within a few years by Nahum Stone, who later became the first village treasurer, and a fourth by W. P. Christensen on the spot where now stands a brick residence across from the State Bank. Peters and Kromer were among the first engaged in the blacksmith's trade. George Cadwell was the first station agent for the new railroad and was followed by C. H. Spencer. John Morgan opened a saloon in 1879. Lib. White opened a drug store in the early eighties.

Village lots in Olivia were first assessed in 1880. Those who already owned lots were: I. & E. B. Lincoln, lots 1, 2 and 3, block 1; C. Blume, lots 1, 4 and 5, block 2; T. H. Risinger, lots 8, 9 and 12, block 2; Peter Berndgen, lots 1, 4 and 5, block 3; P. W. Heins, lots 8, 9 and 12, block 3; John Been, lots 1 and 4, block 6; H. S. Atchley, lots 8 and 9, block 6; Wm. Warner, lots 12 and 13, block 6; Mrs. Mary Hodgdon, lot 1, block 7; Jerome Balsley, lots 2 and 3, block 7; Fred Williams, lot 4, block 7; H. E. Daniels, lot 4, block 7; Ryan & Morgan, lots 6 and 7, block 7; J. Leeson, lots 1 and 4, block 8; T. S. Christianson, lots 2 and 3, block 8; James Williams, lot 6, block 8.

In 1882 the village contained only a handful of people numbering in all about 80, and continued to grow but slowly. There were four general stores, one hardware, one drug store, blacksmith shop, wagon shop, tailor and shoe shop, one hotel, one saloon, one lumber yard, two elevators, one mill. Bird Island was already a thriving little city of 500 people and the county metropolis; Renville had a population of 275 and Heeter 250. By 1890 Olivia had 263; during the next ten years it more than trebled in number, arriving at the centennial with a population of 970.

In 1889 the Peoples Bank was established by P. W. Heins and six years later the State Bank was organized. The same year the Olivia Bottling Works opened up for business.

The first church services were held at different homes by Nahum Tainter, Methodist minister from Bird Island. A church was built a little later in 1888; this was partly torn down a few years ago and the rest of the building framed into the pretty church of the present day. Father Koher of Bird Island read

mass at Olivia for the Catholics and Father Flint was the first resident pastor after the church was built in 1889.

In 1880 the first public school was built. This building is now the (old) Swedish Lutheran church. Frank de Camp was one of the first teachers.

At about the same time a new flour mill was built with modern machinery by Kubesh and Brown. It is running today and is an important factor in the industrial life of the community, now owned by D. L. Simons.

In 1898 the Northwestern Telephone Company was granted a franchise and in 1905 a local telephone exchange was established. The latter has recently been purchased by the Tri-State Company and the two give Olivia and vicinity excellent service.

In 1899 the village purchased lots for the establishment of a waterworks and lighting system. The village now has an ample supply of water and mains to serve the needs of its people. The water tank of 47,000 gallons capacity, completed in 1901, is placed upon a ninety-foot tower and produces a 40-pound pressure. There are 11,000 feet of mains and 24 double hydrants. The fire department consists of 22 volunteers and is supplied with 1,500 feet of hose, 2 carts, one hook and ladder truck and one Waterous steamer in reserve. Electric power is now secured from the Renville County Electric Company.

The large arc lights installed in 1899 did much to add beauty to the streets. On June 29, 1914, the village signed a contract with the Renville County Electrical Co., at Bird Island, by which the plant at Olivia is supplied with power from the plant at Bird Island. The village still owns its own electric light plant, in good working order, ready at any time to supply "juice" if necessary.

The Olivia postoffice was established in 1879 and the postmasters have been as follows: 1879, Ike Lincoln; 1880, William P. Christensen; 1884, Lib. White; 1886, Daniel Haire; 1890, William H. Schmitt; 1894, William P. Christensen; 1896, J. M. Peckinpugh; 1906, H. H. Neuenburg; 1914, W. J. Heaney. It was made a money order in 1880, an international office in 1894; was advanced from fourth to third class in 1896 and was given a postal savings department in 1911. During the term of Lib. White as postmaster the office and all its records was burned. Ike Lincoln kept the first postoffice in his elevator office. William P. Christensen during his first term had the office in his store and during his second term kept it where the plumbing shop is now located. Daniel Haire and W. H. Schmitt kept the office in their respective store buildings. J. M. Peckinpugh kept the office in the Heaney building, and there H. H. Neuenburg likewise kept it until 1912, when it was moved to its present location. William J. Heaney is the postmaster, Wilfred Heaney the assistant, and Marguerite and

Ralph Heaney the clerks. There are five rural routes, Nos. 1 and 2, established July 1, 1902; No. 3, established Sept. 1, 1904; and Nos. 4 and 5, established Jan. 16, 1905. The present carriers are William E. Burt, William Moran, Henry A. Kobler, Leigh H. Wilson and James P. O'Neil. Norfolk, Winfield and Lake Lillian postoffices have been discontinued into this one.

The Grand Central hotel was built about twenty years ago by Neuenberg and Company. It is a substantial brick building with modern conveniences and serves well the needs of the traveling public. The proprietors are Mr. and Mrs. Fred McIntyre.

The location of the county seat at Olivia in 1900 brought a splendid addition to the village in the form of a fine brown stone courthouse, of pleasing architectural style, and modern appointments. It sits alone in the center of a full block, with a beautiful lawn and buckthorn hedge along the border to set off its beauty. It is a fitting monument to the progressiveness of the county's citizens, in accord with its wealth, and an appropriate situation for the seat of law and local government. Nearby is the sightly and sanitary jail.

The long struggle for the possession of the county seat left the community in a fit of exhaustion and the period of great development which had been predicted failed to appear. Except for the building operations on the courthouse and the coming of the families of county officials to Olivia, there was but little difference from its previous state.

Marked improvements, however, were gradually taking place which have developed within the last few years into a veritable "boom" and have made Olivia one of the prettiest, most progressive and substantial little cities in Southern Minnesota.

The summer of 1915 was marked by a period of unusual business activity. The old Ryan hotel building was removed from the downtown location and is being remodeled as a hotel. On the old location a fine set of brick business blocks have been erected. These six new buildings together with the new armory, the Swanson block, and the remodeled garage mark great changes in the business aspect of the village.

Two of the most important societies in this community are the Commercial Club and the Ladies' Improvement Club. The former is a live organization, with commodious quarters in the New Armory, whose members take keen interest in any matter for the benefit of the community. Their activity has resulted in securing many improvements that would otherwise have been lost. Darwin S. Hall is president and A. N. Nelson is secretary.

Olivia has never been visited by a serious fire. The citizens, however, believe in adequate protection and maintain a fire department which holds fire drills at stated intervals. The equipment consists of hose pumps, carts, bell, and fire extinguishers, all

kept at the engine house, which is a sightly structure, well adapted to its purpose.

The Armory is one of the prides of the village. The old armory, a building 80 by 120 feet was erected in 1897, one block north of the railroad station. It was used as an armory, opera house and general meeting place. It has been converted into a roller skating rink. In 1914 arrangements were made by Major H. H. Neuenburg, of the Third Regiment, M. N. G., and by Captain Alexander McCorquodale, of Company H, of the same regiment, for the erection of a new Armory to be situated on the corner lot, facing south, and one block west from Main street. It was completed at a cost of about \$25,000, of which \$15,000 was paid by the state. The building is 65 by 120 feet, of dark pressed brick, trimmed with stone, and beautified by a sightly entrance illuminated with two ornamental electric lights. The main hall is equipped with a stage which will be well furnished for the presentation of theatrical attractions. In addition to this, aside from serving its purpose as a drill hall, this auditorium is used for public meetings, lectures, concerts, dances and the like. The Commercial Club has well appointed quarters on the second floor, supplied with billiard tables, card tables, reading matter, and comfortable surroundings. On the main floor, in addition to the auditorium, are found the public library, the council chamber and the women's rest room. The rest room will do much to add to Olivia's popularity as a farm center, for here amid pleasant surroundings the women from the rural districts can find rest and recreation and comforts while visiting in the village. In the basement are the equipment rooms, the officers' headquarters and the like, with the club rooms of the military company, while space is set off for a target practice room, gymnasium, baths, dining room and similar purposes. The auditorium stage has been furnished with scenery and was dedicated in March, 1916, with a local production of George Ade's "County Chairman."

The Public Library of Olivia was organized in compliance with the laws of the State of Minnesota by a resolution adopted by the village council on the fourteenth day of February, 1914. This resolution authorized the president of the council, and his successor in office to take such steps as the law requires, in perfecting the organization and establishment of a public library.

On March 5, 1914, President M. J. Dowling reported the appointment of a village library board, to serve as follows: For the term ending the third Saturday in July, 1915, Mrs. H. H. Neuenburg, Mrs. G. H. Mesker and Mrs. T. P. McIntyre; for the term ending the third Saturday in July, 1916, Mrs. P. J. Schafer, Mrs. L. A. Matzdorf and Capt. A. R. McCorquodale; for the term ending the third Saturday in July, 1917, Hattie S. Bordwick, Mrs. W. H. Heins, Mrs. Noble Coucheran.

On July 13, 1915, President D. S. Hall reappointed Mrs. H. H. Neuenburg, Mrs. Geo. H. Mesker and Mrs. T. P. McIntyre for the term ending the third Saturday in July, 1918; D. S. Hall taking the place of Capt. A. R. McCorquodale on the library board.

To the Ladies' Public Improvement society is due much credit for getting the library started up in the first place, and they have taken charge and conducted its affairs from the beginning, displaying efficiency and good business management. In starting, many public spirited citizens contributed books; and the village pays the rent, a small salary to the librarian and helps in many ways. The "Library Teas," "Fines" and other resources which the business women of Olivia have worked out, bring in funds with which to supply the library with more books and late publications.

The library is well patronized, and so popular has it become that many of the young and old would hardly know how to get along without it.

The officers of the Olivia Public Library, for the year 1915, are: President, Mrs. Warren H. Heins; treasurer, Mrs. P. J. Schafer; secretary and librarian, Mrs. Noble Coucheron.

The cemetery, about a mile southwest of the village, is well kept and well laid out. It was surveyed Dec. 2, 1884, by C. G. Johnson, and for many years its upkeep was left with private owners. Later the churches and the Ladies' Improvement Society took up the matter. In 1911 the Improvement Society erected a retaining wall on the north side of the cemetery, ten feet inside of the highway limit on State Road No. 2.

The canning factory is an important business enterprise. In 1915 over 1,000,000 cans of corn were prepared at the rate of 100 cans a minute. Olivia is situated in the midst of a prosperous farming country. Minnesota is ranking high in corn production and many farmers coming from the southern states are greatly surprised to see the fine corn crops grown in Renville county. Fine crops of corn, yielding from forty to seventy-five bushels per acre are grown every year and seem to be more popular than wheat in this section. The canning factory was built in 1903, with A. A. Chapman as manager; C. A. Heins, president, and H. H. Neuenburg, secretary.

Besides corn and peas, kraut, apples, rhubarb and tomatoes are canned. All goods are packed in sanitary cans. The bulk of the goods is sold in Chicago markets.

Such a factory is of value to any community, and particularly to the county and farmers. It has been said that new settlers have considered buying land in Renville county most favorably on account of the fact that the canning factory would offer special inducements to the farmer for his produce. This, in itself, is an important factor not only for the farmer, but for the community

at large, as it helps to build up the town and the county. The factory employs 75 to 100 people during the canning season. The output of sweet corn alone last year was more than 1,000,000 cans. The special brands furnished by this company are well known throughout the state.

The Farmers' Livestock Shippers' Association is a strong, active association, and has been doing big things in Olivia. One of the farmers acts as buyer, with the result that hundreds of dollars that went to the buyers now goes into the pockets of the farmers.

The shade trees of Olivia are an important asset. A recent article written by a man who made an automobile trip through this section of the country pays the following tribute to Olivia's beauty in this respect. The article follows:

"Perhaps the most impressive example of what one man's influence along this line can do, we came across at and around the little town of Olivia, in Minnesota. Here one man, a Scandinavian, and we regret very much that we cannot recall his name (the name is J. E. W. Peterson), not only put out a beautiful park of trees for the little city, and lined nearly every street in it with a double row of trees, but for many miles into the country in all directions, the same thing was kept up along the highways. Instead of a bare little prairie town, with here and there a few trees set out by an individual lot owner, and approached by dreary stretches of treeless prairie road, the whole town is a beautiful tree-shaded bower, and the drives along the far country roads are made beautiful and full of variety and interest, by shade and protection, and much of the year by tens of thousands of nesting and singing birds. The trees planted by this one man have a money value today of many thousands of dollars, and a beauty value that cannot be computed. On through the coming years, they will continue their mission of blessing and beautifying, though even now the hand which directed their planting is dust beneath their shade." Telephone and electric wires are causing many of the trees to fall, still enough remain for beauty and shade.

Among the many beauties of Olivia is the public park. As early as 1882, the people of Olivia felt the need of a public park, and the block lying east of the P. W. Heins residence was donated by John Nestor for that purpose. Later the block next east of this block was laid out as a public park. In 1901, when a site for the courthouse was being discussed, the council conferred with the county commissioners in reference to offering the village park for that purpose. However, it was not taken for that purpose, and public improvements were begun on it. A splendid band stand was erected in the center of the park, flower beds started, walks laid out, and trees trimmed. Lighting the park

has added to its beauty. The Ladies' Public Improvement Society has been active in the beautifying and upkeep of this park.

The Ladies' Public Improvement Society of Olivia was organized July 29, 1903, for the purpose of improving conditions in and around the village. Committees on park, street, cemetery and entertainment were appointed.

The Park committee has seen that the grass in the park has been kept cut, and the trees trimmed. In the spring of 1909, Henry Dunsmore, under the auspices of the society, put out the flowers in the park. The cost of this work was \$50 of which the society paid half. From year to year flower beds have been added.

The Street committee has looked after keeping the streets clean. Poor crossings have been reported to the council. Railings have been placed on all the bridges in town. This committee has also seen to it that horses were not left standing on the streets unnecessarily long.

The Cemetery committee has worked in conjunction with Cemetery association, keeping the cemetery mowed and in neat order. In the years of 1912 and 1913, as noted, a retaining wall was built in front of the cemetery grounds, which has added much to their appearance. This wall cost the association \$590.

It has been the duty of the Entertainment committee to decide what plays, entertainments and the like should come under the auspices of the society. Some excellent numbers have appeared under their direction. In 1909 the society presented a home talent play, "A Family Affair," the proceeds of which netted \$130. This play involved considerable effort, and much credit is due those who pushed it to so successful a conclusion. The committee having charge of the play were Mesdames L. A. Matzdorff, Noble Coucheron and T. P. McIntyre.

In 1912 the society gave a Leap Year ball, which netted \$102. During the same year Hattie Bordewich arranged for Maria Sanford to lecture here and gave the proceeds to the society. The lecture was a treat and much enjoyed by all the members. In the fall of 1912 the society all served a banquet for the District Teachers' association, clearing \$48. In November, 1913, a play, "As You Like It," was given. As their share of the proceeds the society received \$31. The following year the Eleanor Olson Concert company and Dr. Baneroft, psychological lecturer, gave two entertaining evenings.

In the fall of 1912 a Library committee was appointed, which was to see what plans could be started for establishing a library. The committee procured Grace Baldwin of the State Library Commission. She gave an instructive talk on the organization of a library before a large gathering of the people interested in the project. On hundred books were solicited as a nucleus of a library from the society and later the committee asked each family

in town to donate one book. This request met with a gratifying response. The committee were empowered by the society to expend the library fund and the library was opened in the Heins Block in 1913 with Gertrude Preston, who donated her services as first librarian. In Feb., 1914, the association voted to turn the library over to the village, and the council now furnishes the room and pays the librarian's salary. A chain of teas has become an annual event and this adds a good sum to the fund available for new books. The library is now on a permanent basis and well patronized.

Not all the association's funds are spent at home. Twice money has been sent the fire sufferers in the northern part of the state and barrels of clothing also were collected for them.

The funds of the society are raised in various ways. The annual dues are fifty cents per member. A lunch is served at each meeting for which a charge of ten cents is made. One year the society had a sale and supper.

The entertainments have all been remunerative as well as interesting.

At present the society has a membership of 53 and meets once every month. Following are the presidents in order of service since organization: The Mesdames G. H. Mesker, Geo. F. Gage, John M. Freeman, T. H. Collyer, C. A. Heins, L. A. Matzdorf and Henry H. Neuenburg.

The youth of this vicinity have excellent educational opportunities in the grade and high school courses of the public school. Besides the regular courses, departments of domestic science, normal work and agriculture have been established with competent instructors in charge. This allows a child to begin an early preparation for whatever line of work he feels himself best fitted for—through the regular courses for the professions; through the domestic science for a position at the head of the home; through the normal course for becoming a teacher, and through the agricultural course for scientific farming. Manual training also gives a training useful in any line. The equipment of the school is good for carrying on these lines of work; the two buildings give adequate room for it; and the heating and sanitary appointments are of the best and most modern. Supt. A. N. Gausemel is in charge.

Once but a neglected blossom along the pioneer's path, Olivia has gradually extended her leaves, gathering her sustenance from the surrounding luxuriant earth, until she has blossomed forth into the fullblown flower of today, shedding grace and beauty and fragrance about her. From whatever direction one may enter the village he is greeted by shaded streets lined with substantial homes, good walks, and well kept lawns and gardens. The influence of the courthouse grounds, the city and the church parks

is seen on every hand; for with such a standard set no citizen can resist the desire to beautify the grounds about his home, and the result is that the entire village becomes one large flower garden—"the beauty spot of the county." With a good nursery but a few miles from town, the task becomes fairly easy. In the last two years over forty new homes were built in the village, all substantial and many of especially pleasing exteriors and grounds. Downtown there is a note of permanency among the business places. Solid brick buildings are taking the place of the old frame structures with a view to future needs. Commodious quarters are selected, not only for filling the needs of the owners but also for the convenience of the patrons as well. There is a sense of pride being taken by the citizens in their village; there is beginning to awaken a broader feeling of coöperation between the village and the surrounding country; the idea that whatever benefits the village also benefits the country is taking root. In short there is developing a community feeling, a feeling of interest that means much for the future development of the whole community at large. The village is located in the very midst of the best agricultural land and owes its rapid progress largely to this fact. On the other hand, the country has been supplied with the best markets, with good trading and banking advantages, with religious and educational opportunities, and with a convenient social center—all of which has increased values in the country. One is plainly dependent on the other; with both working hand in hand the community will continue to grow and prosper.

The flower into golden fruit transcending
Brings cheer and enjoyment never ending.

The following is a brief directory of Olivia: Herman Becker, drugs; Berge Bros. & Co. (A. O. and F. N. Berge), general store; Henry Bertram, shoes; Gottlieb Boeck, tailor; Central Creamery Co., Peter Christianson, manager; City Water Works and Electric Light Plant, Levi C. Little, superintendent; Columbia Elevator Co., Jas. Empey, agent; Wm. F. Conger, livery; Crown Elevator Co., Chas. G. Ployhart, agent; August Dirks, furniture; Chas. A. Donnelly, barber; A. L. McDowell, automobiles; Ernest Dindeet, blacksmith; Irving Empey Co., restaurant; Empire Elevator Co., Jas. W. Ployhart, agent; Filip and Holovee (Gottlieb Filip and Frank G. Holovee), meats; Fred G. Fox, blacksmith; John M. Freeman, lawyer; Geo. F. Gage, lawyer; Leonard Glenn (John B. Glenn, Benj. Leonard), restaurant; Grand Central Hotel, Fred McIntyre, proprietor; Mrs. Anna M. Green, milliner; David W. Gustafson, photographer; Augusta Handeen, milliner; H. A. Havreberg, veterinary surgeon; Edwin Heins, insurance agent; Heins and Byers (Chas. A. and Warren H. Heins, and

Benjamin F. Beyers), hardware; Hopman Bros. (Jos. and Barney), harness; Frank Horejsi, general store; Jas. Kvech, expressman; Kvech and Jansen (Alb. J. Kvech, Alb. L. Jansen), automobile garage, repairs and supplies; Jas. R. Landy, publisher *Olivia "Times;"* Lende Bros. (Elmer and Mihlo), meats; Aib. H. Leitgke, bakery; Olsen Bros., plumbers; Benj. L. Maertz, dentist; Louis Mahler, jeweler; W. E. Mathers, civil engineer; Geo. H. Mesker, physician; Samuel R. Miller, lawyer; A. N. Nelson, insurance agent; Albert Novak, harness; Obriham Bros. (Wilson A. and Erwin E.), billiards; *Olivia Bottling and Ice Cream Works* (Henry Eickhoff, Geo. E. Buetke); *Olivia Canning, Preserving and Manufacturing Company* (C. A. Heins, president; H. H. Neuenburg, secretary and treasurer); *Olivia Commercial Club* (D. S. Hall, president; A. N. Nelson, secretary); *Olivia Farmers' Elevator Company*, Charles E. Johnson, agent; *Olivia Hardware Company* (Adolph R. Schueller, Louis A. Matzdorf); *Olivia Mercantile Company* (James McCorquodale, president; Alex. McCorquodale, secretary and treasurer), general store; *Olivia Produce Company*, John Flaschenriem, manager; *Olivia Rural Telephone Co.*; *Olivia State Bank* (capital \$25,000, president, M. J. Dowling; cashier, H. S. Bordewich); Adolph A. Passer, physician; *Peoples First National Bank* (capital, \$25,000; C. A. Heins, president; A. N. Nelson, cashier); Geo. E. Peterson, real estate; Jas. Ployhart, flour; William A. Schindel, real estate; Wenzel J. Springer, real estate; Jas. A. Smith Lumber Co., W. B. Yarosh, manager; Simon Wolpert & Bro. (Simon and Jos.), general store; Samuel Warner, barber; Wm. Windhorst, grain elevator, lumber, sash and door, coal, etc.

Olivia was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved March 4, 1881. The first election was held March 16, 1881, in charge of Peter W. Heins, N. Stone and William P. Christensen.

Following are the officers of *Olivia* for its early and modern years, the period between 1886 and 1896 being omitted.

1881. President, W. P. Christensen; trustees, I. Lincoln, L. White, William Windhorst; recorder, P. W. Heins; treasurer, N. Stone; justice of the peace, A. D. Simpkins; constable, O. J. Everson. P. W. Heins refused to serve as recorder and A. D. Simpkins was appointed.

April 9, 1881, the recorder was instructed to apply to G. E. Skinner of St. Paul for the filing of a complete plat of the village of *Olivia* as laid out by the railroad company, with the recorder of the village.

Jan. 14, 1882, a committee was appointed to secure rooms for the Lockup and Council chambers. The next year, the recorder was ordered to procure a lease from John Morgan for the council chamber and jail for the coming year. Dec. 7, 1886, the committee reported the acceptance of the lockup.

1882. President, Peter Abererombie; trustees, G. J. Depue, John Morgan, P. W. Heins; recorder, A. D. Simpkins; treasurer, N. Stone; justice of peace, A. D. Simpkins; constable, Hue Abererombie.

March 3, 1882, A. D. Simpkins resigned his office of recorder and Wm. P. Christenson was appointed and A. D. Simpkins having left the village indefinitely, C. Humbolt was appointed justice of peace for the unexpired term.

1883. President, P. W. Heins; trustees, Otto Babeock, J. E. Barker, Wm. Christenson; recorder, T. H. Risinger; treasurer, John Speier; Wm. Windhorst, justice of peace, T. H. Risinger, constable.

1884. President, P. W. Heins; trustees, A. D. Simpkins, Geo. Lamphere, G. J. Depue; recorder, T. H. Risinger; treasurer, Wm. Windhorst; justice of peace, J. E. Barker; constable, H. C. Gage; assessor, A. D. Simpkins. T. H. Risinger resigned his position of recorder, April 8, 1884, and B. F. Beyers was appointed.

1885. President, W. M. Christenson; trustees, A. D. Simpkins, G. Lamphere, G. J. Depue; recorder, B. F. Beyers; treasurer, John Morgan; justice of peace, T. H. Risinger, Levi Robinson; constable, Wm. Frederick.

1886. President, P. W. Heins; councilmen, G. J. Depue, Fred Kromer, George Lamphere; recorder, B. F. Beyers; treasurer, John Morgan; justices of peace, Levi Robinson, Peter Abererombie; constable, James Arnold.

1896. President, J. M. Peckinpaugh; councilmen, M. H. Glenn, J. B. Ferguson, J. E. Davenport; recorder, H. Kelsey; treasurer, W. H. Schmidt; justice of peace, Eric Ericsen; constables, A. J. Kveek, J. M. Peckinpaugh; marshal, T. F. Miller.

1897. President, J. M. Peckinpaugh; councilmen, M. J. Glenn, Anton Roeck, H. H. Neuenburg; recorder, W. J. Ployhart; treasurer, W. J. Heaney; justices of peace, C. K. Blandin, T. H. Risinger; marshal, T. F. Miller; constable, M. E. Sherin; street commissioner, Peter Miller.

Dec. 11, 1897, M. J. Glenn resigned his position of councilman and E. L. Depue was appointed. May 28, 1897, J. M. Peckinpaugh resigned his position as president of the village council and T. P. McIntyre was appointed.

On June 8, 1897, the question came before the council of ordering a special election for voting upon the proposition to issue bonds for the purpose of building an armory 80 feet by 120 feet for the use of Company H, Third Infantry, N. G. It was ordered that a special election be held June 19, 1897. In August of the same year, the council met to consider bids for the armory. The bid of E. W. Peet & Son, St. Paul, Minn., was accepted but later was thrown out and the bid of A. J. Hedlund accepted. The building was ready for occupancy Dec. 11, 1897.

Aug. 3, 1897, at the suggestion of the Board of Trade, the council decided to have cement crossings put in at the corners of all streets having cement walks.

1898. President, T. P. McIntyre; councilmen, P. J. Schafer, E. L. Depue, N. P. Peterson; recorder, H. H. Neuenburg; treasurer, W. J. Heaney; justice of peace, J. M. Peckinpaugh; constable, John Miller; marshal, T. F. Miller.

In 1898, the front room of the lockup was designated the place for holding the annual elections of Olivia.

October 4, 1898, the council decided to purchase a Fire extinguisher, complete with pump and gage for \$41, the extinguisher to be of galvanized steel.

June 7, 1898, the council granted to the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company the right to occupy the streets, alleys and public grounds, within the village for the purpose of placing poles, wires, etc.

1899. President, E. L. Depue; councilmen, E. H. Corey, Wm. Bueche, Peter Miller; recorder, Anton Rocek; treasurer, W. J. Heaney; justice of peace, L. H. Wilson; constable, M. E. Sherin; marshal, N. L. Headline; assistant marshal, Fred Schmidt.

In 1899, C. F. Loweth, a civil engineer was consulted to prepare and make plans for constructing water supply works and electric light plant in conjunction. A petition of the legal voters asked for a special election to be held Dec. 2, 1899, to vote upon the question of securing bonds for this enterprise and the majority of votes were in favor and the village council purchased lots 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 18, situated in block 8, in Windhorst's addition, for the erection and construction of public water supply works and electric light plant combined.

1900. President, E. L. Depue; councilmen, Wm. Bueche, E. H. Corey, Peter Miller; recorder, Anton Rocek; treasurer, W. J. Heaney; justice of peace, J. M. Peckinpaugh; constable, John Miller; marshal, N. L. Headline.

1901. President, E. L. Depue; councilmen, Wm. Bueche, A. McCorquodale, J. Empey; recorder, B. J. Schoregge; treasurer, W. J. Heaney; constable, M. E. Sherin; justice of peace, Leigh Wilson; health officer, Dr. Mesker.

1902. President, B. F. Beyers; councilmen, Erick Greep, A. O. Gerde, G. H. Mesker; recorder, W. P. Christenson; treasurer, E. G. Heins; constable, W. J. Heins; justice of peace, James Ployhart.

1903. President, A. O. Gerde; councilmen, H. C. Beeker, G. H. Mesker, Wm. Bueche; recorder, W. P. Christenson; constable, M. E. Sherin; marshal, W. J. Hines; treasurer, E. G. Heins; justices of peace, G. W. Diepenbroek, J. M. Peckinpaugh.

Jan. 5, 1904, a petition signed by 33 legal voters asked that a special election be ordered by the council for the purpose of

voting upon the proposition to separate the village of Olivia from the town government of Bird Island township. A special election was ordered to be held Jan. 26, 1904, which resulted in favor of the petition.

1904. President, J. M. Freeman; councilmen, P. J. Fitschen, J. McCorquodale, Wm. Buethe; recorder, Wm. Christenson; treasurer, E. G. Heins; justice of peace, W. P. Christenson; assessor, L. H. Wilson; constable, W. J. Heins; marshal, W. J. Hines; board of health, F. D. Miller, C. Waldo.

1905. President A. O. Gerde; councilmen, Wm. Buethe, P. J. Fitschen, John Reidner; treasurer, E. G. Heins; recorder, Fred Roeck; assessor, L. H. Wilson; justices of peace, J. M. Peckinpaugh, M. J. Dowling; constable, John Miller, Jr.

1906. President, A. O. Gerde; trustees, P. J. Fitschen, J. Flaschenreim, C. W. Deyling; recorder, J. M. Peckinpaugh; treasurer, M. J. Dowling; assessor, L. H. Wilson; justices of peace, C. D. Gibbs, J. M. Peckinpaugh; constable, W. J. Hines; deputy recorder, W. J. Hines; marshal, W. J. Hines.

1907. President, A. O. Gerde, councilmen, G. J. Depue, J. Flaschenreim, C. W. Deyling; recorder, J. M. Peckinpaugh; treasurer, M. J. Dowling; constable, Albert Paulund; marshal, W. J. Hines; justice of peace, Geo. Peterson; assessor, L. H. Wilson.

1908. President, Jas. Empey; trustees, C. W. Deyling, T. H. McGinty, John Flaschenreim; treasurer, M. J. Dowling; recorder, J. M. Peckinpaugh; assessor, L. H. Wilson; justice of peace, J. M. Peckinpaugh; constable, M. E. Sherin; marshal, M. E. Sherin.

1909. President, Jas. Empey; trustees, William Frederick, William Schendel Nels Swanson; treasurer, M. J. Dowling; recorder, John Flaschenreim; assessor, L. H. Wilson; justice of peace, G. E. Peterson; constable, M. E. Sherin.

1910. President, Jas. Empey; trustees, Nels Swanson, William Schendel, William Frederick; treasurer, M. J. Dowling; recorder, John Flaschenreim; justice of peace, J. M. Peckinpaugh; constable, M. E. Sherin, Mark Converse; marshal, M. E. Sherin.

Oct. 10, 1910, the village council appropriated the sum of \$50 for the aid of the forest fire sufferers by the recent forest fires of Northern Minnesota.

1911. President, Jas. Empey; trustees, William Frederick, W. J. Ployhart, A. R. Schueller; treasurer, M. J. Dowling; recorder, John Flaschenreim; assessor, L. H. Wilson; justice of peace, G. E. Peterson; constable, M. W. Converse; marshal, M. E. Sherin.

1912. President, M. J. Dowling; trustees, Alex. McCorquodale, Geo. Mehlhouse, C. A. Heins; treasurer, Geo. Windhorst; recorder, John Flaschenreim; justice of peace, J. R. Landy; constable, M. W. Converse; marshal, M. E. Sherin.

1913. President, M. J. Dowling; trustees, C. A. Heins, A. McCorquodale, G. Mehlhouse; treasurer, Geo. Windhorst; recorder, John Flaschenreim; assessor, L. H. Wilson; justice of peace, Geo. Peterson; constable, M. E. Sherin.

1914. President, M. J. Dowling; trustees, C. A. Heins, A. McCorquodale, Geo. Mehlhouse; treasurer, Geo. Windhorst; recorder, John Flaschenreim; justice of peace, J. R. Landy; marshals, M. E. Sherin, Carl Doering; constable, M. E. Sherin.

1915. President, D. S. Hall; trustees, George Mehlhouse, J. W. Ployhart, Nels Swanson; treasurer, Geo. Windhorst; recorder, John Flaschenreim; assessor, L. H. Wilson; justice of peace, Geo. Peterson; constable, M. E. Sherin; marshal, Carl Doering.

The personal property tax payers in Olivia in 1915 are: Est. of Louise M. Aitkins, H. W. Bublitz, Benjamin Brown, M. C. Black, Sol. Bergstrom, H. C. Becker, H. S. Bordewich, H. T. Bordewich, O. O. Berge, Berge Bros., C. O. Breeke, Wm. Buethe, Henry Bertram, Henry Barkow, G. Boeck, Wm. Berndt, Mrs. N. D. Bunker, James Burns, Olof Bohman, E. H. Benesh, Mrs. Jennie Barnier, Elizabeth Brugman, L. F. Clemons, E. Carlson, M. W. Converse, Crown Elev. Co., Columbia Elev. Co., A. A. Chapman, W. F. Conger, Central Creamery Co., N. Coucheron, P. Christensen, Catholic Church Society, J. C. DeGonda, M. C. DeGonda, Dickey & Kaisersatt, Eric Danielson, August Dirks, Dirks Furniture Co., M. J. Dowling, C. W. Deyling, E. J. Dudek, Carl Doering, Jr., Carl Doering, Albert Doering, J. E. Denustedt, Urban Donnelly, Chas. Donnelly, Empire Elev. Co., Jas. Empey, I. G. Empey, L. O. Erickson, J. M. Freeman, Wm. F. Friedrich, Farmers' Elevator Co., Henry Fehr, P. J. Fitschen, Fred Fox, Sr., Fred G. Fox, Andrew Fox, John Flaschenreim, Josephine Foreman, C. E. Ferguson, Rachel Felske, Wm. H. Fisher, C. A. Fisher, D. W. Gustafson, Geo. F. Gage, A. N. Gausemel, Gund Brewing Co., Mrs. A. M. Green, Eric Greep, S. B. Goetz, W. S. Hershberger, F. Havlisch, Sr., J. L. Hankel, W. J. Heaney, Hamm Brewing Co., Julius Heinicke, Frank Horejsi, C. A. Heins, W. H. Heins, Heins & Beyers, E. G. Heins, B. M. Hopman, Hopman Bros., Peter Hopman, John Hopman, Frank Hotovec, D. S. Hall, Jos. Honza, John Honza, A. H. Havreberg, Jos. Houdek, E. O. Heglund, Peter Haley, Otto Haaek, Mollie Haaek, F. H. Hupfer, C. E. Johnson, Albert Jansen, Kvech & Sholts, J. and H. Kubesh, Chas. Kostka, A. Kubesh, L. J. Kuske, C. A. Kuske, S. Kartak, Jas. Kvech, A. J. Kvech, Kvech & Jansen, C. G. Keller, John F. Kodet, Henry Kobler, H. Klemenhausen, Albert Kline, Wm. Kuehn, Est. of H. J. Lee, David Leonard, Henry Leonard, Jr., J. R. Landy, Jos. Lepeska, Jr., John Lepeska, A. H. Leitzke, Elmer Lende, Mihlo Lende, Lende Bros., John Miller, Robt. Mehlhousen, Geo. Mehlhouse, L. P. Mahler, Frank Miller, Geo. Miller, B. L. Maertz, C. N. Matson, Geo. H. Mesker, A. Monahan, A. Maloney, L. A. Matz-

dorf, John Morgan, Helen Maxwell, W. E. Morris, Jos. Maxner, E. C. Messer, Fred McIntyre, T. P. McIntyre, T. H. McGinty, P. J. McMahon, A. R. McCorquodale, J. A. McCorquodale, T. B. McIlraith, H. H. Neuenburg, A. N. Nelson, A. W. Novak, S. E. Nelson, John Nester, A. H. Nenow, Olivia Roller Mills, Olivia Commercial Club, Olivia Hardware Co., Olivia Bottling Works, Olivia State Bank, Olivia Canning Co., Olivia Produce Co., Olivia Motor Car Co., Olivia Mercantile Co., Mrs. Mable Otto, P. F. O'Neil, Jas. O'Neil, Wm. O'Neil, Wm. Owens, Olson Bros., C. J. Olson, W. A. Obriham, J. Oelschlager, G. M. Peters, Paulson & Storch, J. W. Ployhart, Jas. Ployhart, C. G. Ployhart, A. A. Passer, Albert Paulson, L. L. Phelps, Geo. E. Peterson, L. R. Pirsch, H. D. Pomije, Peoples' First National Bank, Chas. Peters, Henry Palas, Elizabeth Pomahatch, John Reins, M. F. Ryans, W. J. Russell, E. Radtke, A. J. Sernett, W. A. Schendel, Mrs. Aug. Schendel, W. J. Springer, A. R. Schueller, Standard Oil Co., Nels Swanson, Peter Storch, W. A. Schummers, P. J. Schaffer, F. M. Sheppard, O. T. Sunde, Aug. Siegler, John Swoboda, Jas. Spevacek, I. Skarohlid, E. Schoening, Smith Lumber Co., M. E. Sherin, Gustaf Sritz, G. D. Taylor, John Thurston, A. M. Thompson, J. J. Vosika, Vosika-Winsor Land Co., R. F. Vath, Waters, Wm. Warner, J. Wanke, S. V. Warner, Geo. Windhorst, Wm. Windhorst, S. Wolpert, S. Wolpert & Bro., L. H. Wilson, Wm. Younk, H. Zobel, Fred Zaske.

SACRED HEART VILLAGE

Sacred Heart village is the most westward of the trading points in Renville county, and is located nearly in the center of four townships which are considered as being numbered among the richest in the state. It is on the direct line of the Chicago-to-the-Coast road of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, being on the Hastings & Dakota division of that railroad about 110 miles west of Minneapolis.

It is a slightly village, with a good business center, splendid modern homes, good lawns, many shade trees, well-kept streets and walks and many other advantages.

As a shipping point the village is especially prominent. Over seventy-five earloads of stock and three hundred earloads of grain are shipped annually, while something like 350 earloads of merchandise come to this point each year.

The population is about 800, and the business done here indicates the progressiveness of the people, and their modern and enterprising spirit.

Sacred Heart takes a proper pride in its public school which is housed in a building embodying the most modern improvements in heating and ventilating and well adopted in every way to local requirements. A full high school training is here given and the

enrollment is now something over 225 pupils, with eight instructors. Andrew J. Mattill is the superintendent. The school has a good library of 500 volumes. Free text books are furnished to the pupils, and considerable interest is taken in general athletics.

For many years past Sacred Heart people have supported a good Lyceum course every winter and during the past two summers have in addition put on the so-called "University Week," a full week's chautauqua under the auspices of the extension division of the state university. Both have enjoyed very liberal patronage and have proven successful. In addition to these entertainments have been those furnished by the local photoplay and vaudeville troupes. Sacred Heart has also been famed for its strong baseball team which has won some notable victories on the diamond.

Sacred Heart is quite an automobile town. It is situated on the famous Yellowstone Trail which is now mapped from the historic Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts to the Pacific coast in the state of Washington. Many tourists stop here, and most of the farmers own automobiles. Two new up-to-date garages take care of all auto troubles with dispatch.

To properly accommodate the traveling public the business men of Sacred Heart a couple of years ago organized a corporation and built a modern, fireproof \$15,000 hotel. This hotel has been pronounced by many, who are in a position to know, as the best little hotel between the Twin Cities and Aberdeen, S. D., along the Milwaukee railway.

The story of the building of this hotel is most interesting. After the old Ryan hotel was burned Sacred Heart was without a hotel. The old hotel site was purchased at a tax sale by Carl Anderson. For many years efforts were made in the direction of a new hotel. Mass meetings were held and ways and means devised. Finally a stock company was formed, and the people took shares in the new venture. The new hotel company was incorporated in December, 1912, with Ed. O'Connor as president; E. C. Sparstad as secretary; and Carl Anderson as treasurer. These with G. P. Mangerud and John Stenberg constituted the board of directors. A beautiful, commodious and modern hotel was erected, and a formal banquet was held on the opening, May 22, 1914. Ed. O'Connor presided. Talks were given by R. T. Daly, Timothy O'Connor, N. J. Holmberg and Amalia M. Bengtson. The present manager is Charles F. Clay.

Sacred Heart has the name of being a good church town. The churches represented are the Norwegian Lutheran Synod, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran, the Norwegian Hauge Lutheran, the American Methodist Episcopal and the Free Norwegian Lutheran.

The village has a municipally owned waterworks plant. The plant is an up-to-date modern reservoir system and the water is pure and is pumped from a deep artesian well. In case of fire, the pressure is very strong and entirely adequate. The town also owns its village hall. The town is supplied with electric power by the Minnesota Valley Power Co., from the Minnesota Falls, about ten miles west of Sacred Heart. They give a day and night service at reasonable rates.

Sacred Heart is a busy place. It has five elevators, a flour mill, a feed mill, a creamery, a farmers' livestock shipping association, and several independent livestock dealers, a produce company, two lumber yards, two garages, one hotel, three restaurants, two banks, one newspaper, six general stores, one drug store, one furniture store, one jewelry store, one meat market, two millinery stores, two hardware stores and three implement dealers, one billiard hall, one undertaker, one photographer, two blacksmith shops, two livery and dray lines, one motion picture theater, two real estate firms, one harness shop, one shoe repairing shop, two barber shops, one physician, one dentist, four contractors and builders, one plasterer, and two painters and paper hangers.

Sacred Heart, as already noted, is situated in the center of the western four townships of Renville county. Its trade territory is the best drained and agriculturally is the best portion of Renville county. The land in this part of the county lies about 150 feet above the Minnesota river, which flows by only seven miles south, and this, supplemented by numerous rivulets and streams, gives almost ideal natural drainage, and, to a large extent, accounts for the never failing and abundant crops of this community, be the season wet or dry.

Corn, the last few years, has become the principal crop in this territory. Its yields have been immense. Wheat and other cereals form a close competitor. Alfalfa makes a splendid crop here, yielding four to five tons per acre. Several thousand acres have been put into this legume during the past five years in this county and it promises to surpass all expectations. Farmers are universally pleased with their alfalfa fields. Its production here is past the experimental stage. On many of our farms may be found big herds of Holstein, Guernsey, Shorthorn, or Hereford cattle. Hogs also have become a regular means of turning corn crops into cash. Fruits are also produced in great abundance here, and in the outskirts of town is located the Jorgan P. Flagstadt & Sons' establishment, a splendid nursery which has done much to promote the horticultural interests of the community.

The past fifteen years have marked a stage of great improvement in Sacred Heart. The old wooden sidewalks have given way to slightly cement walks, cement crossings have been put in,

and streets improved, and many other modern movements inaugurated.

The waterworks system was inaugurated in 1898 and serves the principal streets of the village. There is a fifty-foot well, with a suitable tank, tower, pump house and other equipment.

The park is one of the beauty spots of Sacred Heart. It occupies a whole block, and is beautiful with trees, grass and shrubbery. The trees were set out by O. T. Ramsland and A. O. Jerde. The bandstand is an added attraction. The village hall originally stood on the park, but in 1902 it was moved to some village lots, located nearer the center of the village. An addition of 20 feet was built, the ceiling was raised four feet, and the inside papered and painted. In 1906, the old village lock-up was torn down and replaced with a \$1,400 solid, up-to-date, brick village jail.

For some years the village streets were lighted with kerosene lamps. In 1908 a contract was made with the Montevideo Light & Power Co., now the Minnesota Valley Power Co., for power to be furnished from Minnesota Falls. The streets are now well lighted, and the current is used extensively in business houses, stores, offices, flour mill, feed mill, blacksmith shops and homes.

The fire department consists of ten men. The equipment is excellent. O. C. Sparstad is the chief, N. T. Hove the secretary, E. P. Dosseth the treasurer and Martin Hanson the engineer.

The officers of Sacred Heart village are: President, O. C. Sparstad; councilmen, O. T. Ramsland, O. H. Eliason, E. P. Dosseth; recorder, G. P. Mangerud; treasurer, W. A. Day; assessor, Carl Anderson; justice of the peace, B. T. Birk; constables, A. O. Deason and P. P. Golie; marshal, A. O. Deason; board of health, Dr. F. L. Hammerstrand, H. B. Helgeson and N. E. Sorenson.

Sacred Heart is said to have the smallest indebtedness of any village in the county. The bonded indebtedness is only \$4,000 and something like \$1,350 has already been deposited in the bank toward meeting this amount.

The present site of Sacred Heart was originally a rolling prairie in section 7. Even before the railroad came through, the locality was the center of a goodly group of farm houses.

The farm house of Hendrick and Thomas Lien stood just east of the present site of the Northwestern Creamery Co., and 100 feet north of the Farmers' Elevator Co., the exact description of the site being the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of section 6, just outside of the present village limits.

Anders Carlson lived near the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 12, Hawk Creek.

Hendrik Kringsberg, better known as "Big Hendrik," lived near the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 12, Hawk Creek.

Ole Rosaasen lived near the southeast corner of section 12, Hawk Creek.

Johannes Roste lived in the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of section 13, Hawk Creek.

Iver Gunderson lived near the northeast corner of section 18, Sacred Heart.

An eighth of a mile south of him was Erik Gunderson, for many years town clerk of Sacred Heart.

Jens Rolie lived near the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 8, Sacred Heart.

Hans Tompte lived near the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 8, Sacred Heart.

Halvor C. Aarnes lived near the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter, of section 8, and still lives there.

Hendrik Oberg lived near the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 6, Sacred Heart.

The railroad came through this locality late in the fall of 1878 and a village was platted on railroad land. There were no activities on the site, however, until the following spring.

In the meantime, two business houses had been erected in the locality, but not on the village site.

Ole Torbenson came from Wisconsin and took up his home with Ole Reishus, near the center of section 29, in Sacred Heart township. He there opened a small store.

P. B. Olson opened a small store near the home of Erik Gunderson, already mentioned.

In the spring of 1879, Hans Field moved his home from his farm a mile east of town and opened a hotel on lots 17 and 18, block 3. He furnished board for the men engaged in erecting the railroad depot that spring.

In the summer of 1879, Ole Torbenson moved to the village of Sacred Heart and built a store facing the depot, near the alley, between lots 1 and 2, block 3. Later he turned the building around and built an addition, so that it stood on lot 1, block 3, facing the street. He continued in business for several years.

West of this store Hans Field erected a blacksmith shop and started business about the same time that Torbenson started business on the townsite.

That same summer, Auton Gerde and Henry Paulson, under the firm name of Gerde & Paulson, opened a general store on lot 13, block 3.

At about the same time, Anders Anderson opened a saloon on the northwest corner of block 11. The ladies of the town objected to this place, and wrecked the saloon and spilled the liquor. Mr. Anderson then erected a saloon on lot 5, block 3.

P. F. Walston opened a hardware store on lot 16, block 3.

About this time, Christian Evenson and Henry Stenson, under the firm name of Evenson & Stenson, opened a store on lot 15, block 2. This was the first store on that side of the street.

Ole and Frederick Walstad opened a hardware store in lot 18, block 2.

A small hotel was built in the fall of 1879 on the northwest corner of block 2, by two farmers, Raffel Johnson and Peter Lynnes, but it was not used as a hotel until sometime later.

Pratt & Robinson erected an elevator in Sacred Heart in the fall of 1879 on the present site of the coal shed of the McGregor Lumber Co. This elevator was burned as was another erected on the site. The first buyer was R. Lilly. He was followed by Ed. O'Connor, who bought grain at this elevator some ten years.

Kellogg, Lang & Miller erected an elevator in the fall of 1879. George Miller was the first buyer at this elevator. The same building is still standing.

These places of business constituted the commercial activities of Sacred Heart until the spring of 1880. The elevator was originally on the east side of the railroad station. It burned and was rebuilt on the east side of Second street, being now known as the Crown elevator.

James McIntyre was the first person to die in the new village. He was the depot agent in the winter of 1879-80 and was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun in climbing over a fence while rabbit hunting.

Early in the spring of 1880, E. O. Lyders came to Sacred Heart and opened a drug store on lot 10, block 2. He was the first doctor in the village.

This same spring, the O'Connor Brothers, Timothy, James, John, Edward and Michael, came to Sacred Heart village and engaged in business on lot 6, block 2.

O. T. Ramsland settled on the village site on June 8, 1880, and, with Henry Stenson, bought out the interest of Christian Evenson in the firm of Evenson & Stenson. A few years later, Mr. Ramsland bought out Mr. Stenson and has since continued in business on practically the same site, being the oldest merchant in point of service, in the village.

The first marriage in Sacred Heart was that of Hannah, daughter of Hans Field, and Ole Torbenson, the pioneer merchant. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Johannes E. Bergh.

The first residence on the village site in addition to Hans Field's hotel was the home of Ole Torbenson, erected on lots 7 and 10, block 4, about the same time he built his store. The next residence was that of P. B. Olson, erected on lot 3, block 4.

The first assessment on village lots in Sacred Heart was made in 1880. Those who had secured lots were: Peter Synnes, lot 2, block 3; Ole Mathiason, lots 7 and 10, block 3; A. O. Gerde,

lot 11, block 3, lot 13, block 4; Merrit A. Monson, lot 14, block 3; Evenson & Stenson lot 15, block 3; John Christoferson, lot 19, block 3; Ole Torbenson, lots 1 and 4, block 4; A. Hanson, lot 5, block 4; A. K. Anderson, lot 8, block 4; P. Jenson, lot 12, block 4; P. F. Walstrom, lot 16, block 4; Mrs. M. Field, lots 17 and 20, block 4, lot 1, block 9; E. Fagerlie, lot 2, block 10; F. H. Wolstad, lot 18, block 3; John J. Anger, lot 12, block 5.

The early growth of the village was rapid, and in 1882 had progressed to the point where the following could be written of it: "The business of the village is transacted by three general stores, one millinery, one drug and fancy grocery store, two blacksmiths, one shoe shop, a harness shop, tailor shop, meat market, two hardware, two hotels, two saloons; there is one physieian; there are two elevators, the combined capacity of which is about 50,000 bushels."

The village was incorporated in 1883.

Ole Fugleskjel opened a lumber yard in 1882. It was located practically on the present site of the B. T. Bird residence but a little to the west.

The next elevator in Sacred Heart was that of the Farmers' Produce Co. The building was erected on the present site but has been rebuilt and remodeled. The first buyer was A. C. Nedurd.

The next elevator was built by Ed. O'Connor. It is now operated by A. H. Collin. Mr. O'Connor built branch elevators at Minnesota Falls, Renville and Olivia, which he operated for many years. He also rented and operated the elevator at Buffalo Lake for a while.

Sacred Heart has had a number of fires. Stores, elevators, hotels, dwelling houses and the like have burned. One large fire swept the west side of block 2, destroying five houses.

The Ryan Hotel was built in the early days of the village. When it was destroyed in the spring of 1907, it was owned by Andrew Thompson, but conducted by Mrs. Ole Walstad.

One of Sacred Heart's fires has resulted fatally. A few years ago a son of Berndt Hawkanson, in alighting from a train, fell and sustained injuries, from which he died two days later. A daughter was about to be married at the same time. While the family were at the son's home attending to his injuries, the mother-in-law of Mr. Hawkanson, and the prospective groom were left in the Hawkanson residence. The house caught on fire and was nearly consumed. The mother-in-law, Oleana Svieven, perished in the flames, and the prospective groom narrowly escaped.

The Farmers Milling Co., of Sacred Heart, was organized many years ago with Thomas King as president; O. T. Ramsland as secretary, and P. C. Brevig as treasurer. It conducts a flourishing business.

The Sacred Heart Produce Co., of Sacred Heart, was incorporated Sept. 30, 1886. The incorporators were: Haaken Agre, Karenus Agre, Simon Johnson, Hendrik Skoberg, Paul Berg, Hans Listerud, Peter Synnes, John Christoferson, Ole Christoferson, Jorgan Flagstad, A. H. Erickson, Andrew Reed, P. C. Brevig, C. A. Evenson, Ole Hendrickson, Dowell Larson, Ole Fugleskjel, Stensrud & Ramsland, E. O. Lyders, P. F. Walstrom, Gjerde & Paulson, Ole O. Melsness, and C. P. Bjorn, of Sacred Heart. The first president was O. T. Ramsland, the first secretary was Ole Fugleskjel. The company having lived through its chartered period of twenty-five years is about to reorganize. The officers are: President, T. S. Berg; secretary, H. C. Omholt; treasurer, Oscar Olufson; manager, A. A. Mostue; grain buyer, E. S. Gunderson. The first two earloads handled by the company were purchased by Henry A. Paulson and Ole T. Ramsland from Ole Enestvedt.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

EXPERIENCES DURING OUTBREAK.

Stories Related by Eye-Witnesses—William Wichman's Narrative
Mrs. Mary E. Schmidt's Story—Experiences of Charles Lam-
mers—German Settlement Wiped Out—Escape of Mrs. Pat-
rick Hayden—Tale of Kearn Horan—At Birch Cooley—On the
Sacred Heart—Brown's Family Captured.

Stern historical facts are enlivened by the little personal touches of interest that can be given by people who have actually been witnesses of some of the stirring events that have gone to make up the sum total of the story of human progress. In our own state there are many still living who have seen a wilderness inhabited by Indians and a few scattered settlers grow into one of the most prosperous portions of the Union. There are people living who went through the Indian Outbreak of 1862, who saw their relatives murdered, who took part in the heroic defense of the frontier, and who assisted in bringing the country once more under the sway of civilization after the deadly wave of fire, rapine and death had spent its force. In a previous chapter the story of the Outbreak has been told by historians. In this chapter we have gathered, for the purpose of perpetuating the names of some of Renville county's heroes, the stories told by the people of the county themselves who underwent some of the most thrilling experiences that can fall to the lot of humankind.

Wichman's Narrative. Doubtless there are among the younger generations of the present day many who have little realization of the trials, dangers and privations endured by the

early pioneers who hewed their way through the primeval forests, tilled the soil with their crude home-made implements, organized townships and counties, and by their sacrifices and denial made possible the enjoyment of the many advantages to be found in these modern times. It is the old settlers who are still with us who can realize fully the great contrast between the early days when the people were jolted over scarcely defined trails seated on a plank placed across the sides of a rough cart drawn by oxen, and the present day when the people in palatial automobiles traverse smoothly kept roads, surrounded by the lavish beauties that Nature has spread in the Minnesota valley and the comforts and luxuries of one of the best agricultural counties in the whole state.

I was born in Brown county, this state, April 5, 1859. Looking back over the years since my father and brother Fred were hauling freight with ox teams in 1859 between Ft. Ridgely and Ft. Abererombie over a blazed trail, the changes which have taken place seem truly marvelous. In that year on one of their trips they came upon a party of government surveyors who had pitched their tents on the bank of Beaver creek on the site of what is now known as the John Storch farm, and learned they were making a survey of Beaver Falls township. In the fall of the year 1860 my parents moved to that township and settled in section 14, in the locality at that time known as Beaver Creek settlement. At this time our family consisted of my father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Diedrich Wichmann, and four sons, Cosmos Fred, Diedrich H., Henry J. and William, and two daughters, Dorothy and Fredericke. On arriving at the homestead a rude house was erected and a barn put up with poles and a thatched roof made of wild hay. These buildings came near being destroyed the following year by prairie fire, but an old Indian known as "Schimmel Father" (from the fact of his old age and habit of riding a white horse) came along on horseback, and dipping his blanket in a tub of water mother had at the house, fought the fire, saved the house as well as a hay stack near by and the straw barn.

My brother, John C. Wichman, born here August 14, 1861, was probably the first white child born in the county. Little did the family think that day that soon we must fly to save our lives from massacre and pillage and from fires set to destroy settlers' homes. The Indians had, during the previous winter, camped in the woods back of our home, and during the periods when heavy snows covered the ground came to the house for such supplies as we could furnish them. That the snowfalls there were heavy was for years proven by a large oak stump, the dead trunk from which father had cut for wood. The stump was cut off even with the top of the snow and stood about five feet above the ground.

Through this snow it was necessary for the ox team to wallow to drag the log out.

In the summer of 1862, after the rye had been cut and shocked, father went to the agency and was employed by the government putting up hay. After having spent Sunday at home he was returning Monday, August 18, to work, and had reached the ferry and was waiting to be taken across the river when he heard shooting on the hills on the opposite bank of the river. Learning of the outbreak of the Indians he pulled off his boots on a pile of lumber nearby, and with his boots in his hand started back across the prairie to the bluffs, thence home to warn his family and the settlers. On the way home father met one of the Earle boys, who was riding a horse. Upon being informed of the outbreak the latter spurred his horse and at once notified several neighbors. A little farther on father met Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Schmidt, who were hauling hay, and they, too, prepared at once to get away. Arriving home father found mother and Diedrich hauling hay. They threw off the greater part of the load, leaving just enough for a cushion on the rack and hastily reached the house. Father tore down the hog pen and rounded up the cattle, while Henry notified the Judge Henry Ahrens' family (who then resided on the place still known as the Judge Ahrens homestead, occupied at present by the Frank Ahrens family), and Brother Diedrich notified the Shepherd family on the farm now occupied by Schafer brothers, and soon, the Ahrens and Schmidt families having arrived, all started for Ft. Ridgely, each driving an ox team and taking with them their stock. On the way to Ft. Ridgely the writer fell through the bottom of the hay rack and, not being missed by the other members of the party, would have been lost had the Ahrens family not discovered him when they came along and Judge Ahrens picked him up. Arriving at Ft. Ridgely we found my brother Fred, who had been employed there by a butcher named Nix, afterward Captain Nix, of New Ulm, and he joined us on our trip thereafter. The party drove on through Ft. Ridgely in order to save their cattle and camped that night at Cummins Grove, near the present town of Henderson. The Schmidt and Ahrens family took another route from here, while we went on to Illinois. We drove as far as Harton with the ox team and there father traded for a team of horses, with which the trip was resumed. At McGregor we crossed the river on a ferry, and having no money father gave the ferryman a two-year-old heifer in payment. For about two years, or until after harvest in 1864, the family resided in Illinois. We then moved back as far as Redstone, this state, near New Ulm, and resided there until the spring of 1865, when we returned to the homestead at Beaver creek. Upon arriving there the house was found to have been burned, but the hay stable still standing. The family occupied

that until a new house could be erected. (The cellar of the first house has always been preserved and may still be seen at the old homestead.) Shortly after erecting our house my brothers, Fred and Diedrich, while on one of the trips to New Ulm for provisions, were notified of another Indian uprising near Hutchinson, and hastened home, and we again started on a hasty trip for protection. One of our horses had a small colt and this was loaded into the wagon with us and a hasty trip started. Arriving at Fort Ridgely Colonel William Pfaender, then in command, offered to furnish father all needed arms and ammunition if we would return. Together with the three older boys and Judge Ahrens' father returned, and for a long time our house was a signal tower beyond which settlers would not venture until receiving a safety signal shot therefrom. After being unmolested for several months the other members of our family and that of Judge Ahrens, accompanied by the Schafer family, who thereafter occupied the Shepherd homestead, returned to once more peacefully occupy homes in beloved Beaver.

During those early years of residence at Beaver all mail and supplies must be transported from New Ulm over a mere blazed trail without bridges of any kind.

For a period of four years a plague of grasshoppers overtook the pioneers, they arriving first on July 4. Several methods were devised to destroy the pest, but the two most successful apparently were by the use of a clothes line rope tied to the collars of two horses and the rope dragging between the horses kept the hoppers on the jump and relieved growing crops. The other method was to suspend a tin pan filled with tar under a cart and as the cart was drawn through a field great masses of grasshoppers would be caught. So well did the tar preserve them that these piles of hoppers could be seen for months. The only thing which seemed to thrive that year were the chickens and they were exceedingly fat.

The Wichman house was for years the place used as a church for our neighborhood, until a log church was later erected on the farm.

The first school held at Beaver in which our young folks were educated was at Elmus Bush's claim shanty, taught by Mrs. Bush. It had a thatched hay roof with a dirt floor and the seats were made by placing blocks on the floor and on top of these laying planks. The shack was lighted by only one full and one half size window. The year's school in those days consisted of three months each spring.

The memory of the days of trial and pioneer adversity undoubtedly have added much to the enjoyment in later years of the many advantages in the way of excellent school and church facilities, county and state organizations, splendid railway accom-

modations and state highways which have proven so pleasant to a life-long resident of Renville county.—By William Wichman.

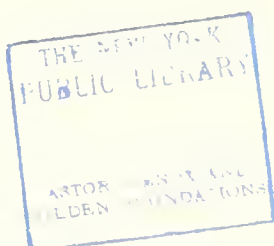
Mrs. Schmidt's Story. Johann Schwandt and his wife Christina with their five children, their son-in-law John Walz, and a friend of the family, John Frass, started in May, 1862, from Fairwater, Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, with their household goods, provisions, two yokes of oxen, a few cows and some calves. After an overland journey, which occupied more than a month, they settled on Middle creek in what is now Flora township.

I was then a girl of fourteen and my brother August was ten years of age. We walked the entire distance, driving the stock and picking flowers by the wayside, and when we were tired we would stop and rest and let the cattle eat. Our dear mother would cook the meal and spread the cloth on the grass, and we would all sit around and enjoy the meal more perhaps than the king in his palace eating from golden plates and drinking from crystal glasses. The land which my father settled on was in the wilderness of the Minnesota river bottomlands and the grass was tall and coarse, and the cattle did not like it, but there was no other. My father chose this place because there was timber there, and the first thing the men did was to hew down some trees and peel the bark off of them. They then built a log cabin of two rooms, and, as at first we had no doors, they put blankets at the openings, and covered the roof with grass and bark. After a few weeks, when father went to New Ulm to do some trading, he bought some doors and windows and also shingles. I accompanied him to do some shopping for my mother and sister. It took us four days to go and come back, it being about forty miles from where we lived and traveling with oxen was very slow. After we had some doors and windows in our cabin we lived quite comfortably. The men started to break up the land and cut some hay on father's place, and as both Mr. Walz and Mr. Frass had taken a claim up on the prairie they all went up there to break the land, and all were happy and contented, but it was not to be for long.

By this time the Indians had started to become troublesome. They would come in parties of six to eight and beg for something to eat, for they were always hungry. Our family was a large one and mother could not give them very much, but I remember she always gave them bread. However, it was meat they wanted, and that we did not have very much of ourselves. There was another great pest that bothered us greatly. Our cabin was built about forty feet from the timber that I spoke of, and in this timber there were thousands and thousands of wild pigeons, keeping up a constant cooing from the break of dawn until nightfall. I do not know what has become of them, for they seem to be all gone. I think they left when the country became more settled.



MRS. MARY E. SCHWANDT SCHMIDT



My parents had been on their farm about two months when that most terrible day, the eighteenth of August, came. Out of eight persons there was only one left to tell the story. At noon when the family were just about to eat the noon meal, a party of Sioux Indians came and soon all was over. August, ten years old, was struck on the head with a tomahawk and was left as dead. In the night he revived and crawled into the tall grass and reached the fort. He still has the scar on his head. He now lives in British Columbia, at Vancouver.

About three weeks before the outbreak Legrand Davis came to our house and wanted to know if I would go over the river to Joseph B. Reynolds, who kept a stopping place. He wanted a little girl to run errands, dust and so forth, and as they were going to start a school for the Indians I could go to this school at the same time. I needed more schooling and thought this a good chance to acquire it. Mother did not like me to go, but Mr. Davis promised to bring me back in two or three weeks, so she reluctantly gave her consent. Little did I think that it was the last time I would see her dear face on this earth. The Reynolds's treated me very kindly, more like their own child than a servant, and I liked to live there. After I had lost my parents they wished to adopt me, but I went to live with an uncle in Wisconsin, who also took my brother August. The eighteenth of August came on a Monday. We had just had our breakfast at the Reynolds's and Mary Anderson was just putting on the wash boiler preparing to do the week's washing. Suddenly John Mooer, a half-breed, came running in and said we should all get away as fast as we could, for the Indians had broken out and were killing all the settlers as fast as they could. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds got into a buggy and drove off, and Mattie Williams, Mary Anderson and myself got into a lumber wagon with three men that had stopped over night at the house. The team belonged to Mr. Patoile, a Frenchman, who hauled goods for the government from one agency to another. The wagon was filled with things they wanted to save, so we started, Mr. Patoile driving the team. We drove from seven in the morning until four in the afternoon, and were about eight miles west of New Ulm when we met a party of Indians. We all jumped from the wagon and ran, but we did not run very far before they were upon us, dragging us back. By that time they had killed all the men and some were scalping them. Mary Anderson was shot through the abdomen and died on the fourth day after the shooting. My clothes were riddled by the bullets, but none harmed me. A skirt which I wore has seven holes shot through it and is now in the possession of the D. A. R. at their museum at the Sibley house, Mendota. This skirt was made of heavy muslin and was part of the cover of our wagon when we settled in Renville county.

When we came back to the wagon the Indians had already broken open all the trunks and were dividing the contents. They had with them about twelve other wagons and a great number of horses. The wagons were loaded with plunder of all kinds which they had stolen from the settlers. They ordered us into the wagons and started back to the agency. It was about ten o'clock by the time that we reached Wacouta's home. It was very dark and there was a tallow candle burning. The house was swarming with Indians. Wacouta chased them out and told us to hide up in the loft and he would bring us water and food in the morning, and we were up there three days and two nights. The wounded girl cried for water, for she had a raging fever. During the second night Mattie Williams and I crawled down and went to a corn field, getting some green corn with which we tried to quench her thirst. On the third night we were told to come down, and were taken to Little Crow's village. Mary Anderson died during the night. Mattie Williams' captor took her to his tepee, where he lived with his squaw, and as my captor had no tepee he said he would kill me to be rid of me. When Snana, one of the Indian squaws heard this, she came and looked me over carefully and went away, returning in a short time leading an Indian pony, which she gave my captor, and then took me by the hand and brought me to her tepee. I was adopted into the tribe and had to call her mamma, and she dressed me in Indian clothing and made pretty moccasins for me. She wrapped me in a snow-white blanket, which was, of course, stolen, but it did not stay white very long. Snana was married to Good Thunder and had two papooses. I had to take care of the baby papoose. I always tried to do all she told me and to please her in all things. There was a bond of sympathy between us because she had just lost her oldest daughter.

After seven weeks of captivity I was released at Camp Release by General Sibley and his army, with the rest of the white prisoners, and as that occasion has been written up so many times I will not mention it here. Mattie Williams was a niece of Mr. Reynolds and was visiting from Ohio. She was highly educated and had a beautiful character. Mary Anderson was a pretty Swedish girl and was to have been married soon to a young man from Shakopee. I was only a plain little German girl who did not know much at all at that time. My Indian mother parted from me at Camp Release and we did not meet again for thirty-two years, but have met many times later, and I received many nice letters from her. She loved me very much, and I have always felt a gratitude towards her which I could not express in words, for she saved me from a terrible fate when she bought me from my captor with her only pony.—By Mrs. Mary Emilia Schwandt Schmidt.

Mary Emilia Schwandt was born in the District of Brandenburg, near Berlin, Germany, in March, 1848, daughter of John and Christina Schwandt. In 1858, when she was ten years of age, the family came to America, and after a brief stay in Canada, located near Ripon, Wis., where they lived about four years. In 1862 they came to Minnesota in two wagons drawn by oxen, journeying up the beautiful Minnesota valley and settling above the mouth of Beaver creek, near Middle creek in what is now the town of Flora. There John Schwandt took up a claim, and built a log house which he covered with a good strong thatched roof made from the tall, tough, dry grass of the Minnesota bottoms. His land was all in the valley or bottom, extending from the bluff to the river. At that time the family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Schwandt, a daughter Caroline, aged 19, her husband, John Walz; a daughter, Mary Emilia, aged 14, and three sons, August, aged 10; Frederick, aged 6; Christian, aged 4. John Frass, a young man lived with them. John Walz had selected a claim and was preparing to move to it the next fall.

Experiences of Charles Lammers. In May, 1862, I came from the city of Cincinnati with my father and mother and brother, Fred. Father homesteaded in the northwest quarter of section 19, township of Flora, Renville county, and at once went to work and built a log house, part of which is still standing. After providing for his family the best he could he went to Fort Ridgley to make hay for the government to earn a few dollars. On August 18, 1862, father came home to take his family down to Fort Ridgley. After we were well started on our way to the fort with other neighbors and a number of oxen teams, etc., the Indians overtook us and made us turn back for a distance of five or six miles.

Then the Indians stopped us and demanded something to eat, which the whites gladly prepared for them after lunch. Then the Indians commenced to kill the white men just as fast as they could and also many of the women and children. My father was one of those murdered. Mother was in a delicate condition at this time and that, no doubt, saved her life. So mother, brother Fred and myself were taken prisoners by the Indians. There were also others that were taken prisoners, some of them that I know like August Gluth and Louis Kitzman, boys about twelve and thirteen years old, who were a very good help to mother for a while, but the grub got very scarce and the two boys took French leave at night and after several nights' travel landed at Fort Ridgley. The Indians took a fancy to my brother Fred, who was a boy about seven years old and full of life and energy, so they painted him like an Indian boy and gave him a blanket to roll up in, but they did not care for me, for I was too noisy for them and of no use to them and too hungry, because there

was nothing to eat for a kid of my age. One day mother was sent down to the slough to get some water and then the Indians grabbed me by the neck and threw me in the fire; only the quick and daring moves of brother Fred saved me from burning to death. After about six weeks of Indian life and grub we came to our liberty at Camp Release, near where Montevideo is now located. In 1864 mother was married to George Rieke, who is one of the oldest homesteaders in the township of Cairo, Renville county. He was also one of the gallant defenders at Fort Ridgely during the entire outbreak. After 1864 we came to live on Mr. Rieke's farm, which is located at the outlet of Mud lake, in Cairo township, and a very beautiful place. The first work that I did of any importance was to herd sheep and fight wolves. Father had about 200 head of sheep and we boys were to herd them. One day two wolves and one dog came in our flock and killed thirteen sheep, another time nine, and still another time three. The wolves did not kill the shepherd for they knew that he was not good mutton. Father had built a large log stable for the sheep and almost every night the wolves would try to get in at the sheep. Some of the logs in the barn were gnawed half through by the wolves. In the fall of the year the weather was almost suffocating on account of prairie fire smoke. When the whole northwest prairies were on fire sometimes it would take two or three weeks before the fire would reach our place although we were protected by Mud lake north of our place. In 1864 the first grasshoppers came to this county, but there wasn't much for them to destroy so they left in 1865 for parts unknown. From that time on this county was settled up very fast. In 1873 on January 6, we had one of the worst snow storms and I can remember many people and animals were frozen to death during the three-day storm. In 1874 another lot of grasshoppers came to visit us. By this time the county was better settled than it was in 1864, so they stayed until 1877, and then left for parts unknown. Many new settlers left this county at that time and disposed of their land for little or nothing. By this time the people all thought that all this county was good for was the Indians and grasshoppers but since 1878 this county has been very prosperous and by this time Renville county looks different and is one of the best counties in the state.

German Settlement Wiped Out. Stretching from the valley of Middle creek to the valley of the Sacred Heart, mostly in what is now Flora township, many Germans settled along the Minnesota bottoms prior to the uprising. Early on the morning of August 18, 1862, nearly all of these settlers gathered at the home of John Meyer. Very soon after they had assembled here, some fifty Indians, led by Shakopee, appeared in sight. The people all fled, except Meyer and his family, going into the

grass and bushes. Peter Bjorkman ran toward his own house. Shakopee, whom he knew, saw him, and exclaimed, "There is Bjorkman; kill him!" but, keeping the building between him and the savages, he plunged into a slough and concealed himself, even removing his shirt, fearing it might be the means of revealing his whereabouts to the lurking savages. Here he lay from early morning until the darkness of night enabled him to leave with safety—suffering unutterable torments, mosquitoes literally swarming upon his naked person, and the hot sun scorching him to the bone.

They immediately attacked the house of Meyer, killing his wife and all his children. Seeing his family butchered, and having no means of defense, Meyer effected his escape, and reached Fort Ridgely. In the meantime the affrighted people had got together again at the Sitzton home, near Bjorkman's, to the number of about thirty men, women and children. In the afternoon the savages returned to the house of Sitzton, killing every person there but one woman, Mrs. Wilhelmina Eindenfield, and her child. These were captured, and afterward found at Camp Release, but the husband and father was among the slain. From his place of concealment Mr. Bjorkman witnessed this attack and wholesale massacre of almost an entire neighborhood. After dark he came out of the slough, and, going to his house, obtained some food and a bundle of clothing, as his house was not yet plundered; fed his dog and calf, and went over to the house of Meyer; here he found the windows all broken in, but did not enter the house. He then went to the house of Sitzton; his nerves were not equal to the task of entering that charnel-house of death. As he passed the yard, he turned out some cattle that the Indians had not taken away, and hastened toward Fort Ridgely. On the road he overtook a woman and two children, one an infant of six months, the wife and children of John Sateau, who had been killed. Bjorkman took one of the children in his arms, and these companions in misfortune and suffering hurried on together. Mrs. Sateau was nearly naked, and without either shoes or stockings. The rough prairie grass lacerated her naked feet and limbs terribly, and she was about giving out in despair. Bjorkman took from his bundle a shirt, and tearing it in parts, she wound it about her feet, and proceeded.

At daylight they came in sight of the house of Magner, eight miles above the fort. Here they saw some eight or ten Indians, and, turning aside from the road, dropped down into the grass, where they remained until noon, when the Indians disappeared. They again moved toward the fort, but slowly and cautiously, as they did not reach it until about midnight. Upon reaching the fort Mrs. Sateau found two sons, aged ten and twelve years re-

spectively, who had effected their escape and reached there before her.

Mrs. Hayden's Escape. Patrick Hayden and his family lived about one and a half miles from the home of J. W. Earle, near Beaver creek. The widow, Mrs. Mary Hayden, after the Outbreak, told the following story:

On the morning of August 18, Mr. Hayden started to go over to the house of J. B. Reynolds, at the Redwood river, on the reservation, and met Thomas Robinson, a half-breed, who told him to go home, get his family, and leave as soon as possible, for the Indians were coming over to kill all the whites. He came immediately home, and we commenced to make preparations to leave, but in a few minutes we saw some three or four Indians coming on horseback. We then went over to the house of a neighbor, Benedict Enne, and found them all ready to leave. I started off with Enne's people, and my husband went back home, still thinking the Indians would not kill any one, and intending to give them some food if they wanted it. I never saw him again.

We had gone about four miles, when we saw a man lying dead in the road and his faithful dog watching by his side.

We drove on till we came to the house of David Faribault, at the foot of the hill, about one and a half miles from the Agency ferry. When we got here two Indians came out of Faribault's house, and stopping the teams, shot Mr. Zimmerman, who was driving, and his two boys. I sprang out of the wagon, and, with my child, one year old, in my arms, ran into the bushes, and went up the hill toward the fort. When I came near the house of Mr. Magner, I saw Indians throwing furniture out of the door, and I went down into the bushes again, on the lower side of the road, and stayed there until sundown.

While I lay here concealed, I saw the Indians taking the roof off the warehouse, and saw the buildings burning at the Agency. I also heard the firing during the battle at the ferry, when Marsh and his men were killed.

I then went up near the fort road, and sitting down under a tree, waited till dark, and then started for Fort Ridgely, carrying my child all the way. I arrived at the fort at about 1 o'clock a. m. The distance from our place to Ridgely was seventeen miles.

On Tuesday morning I saw John Magner, who told me that, when the soldiers went up to the Agency the day before, he saw my husband lying in the road, near David Faribault's house, dead. John Hayden, his brother, who lived with us, was found dead near La Croix creek. They had got up the oxen, and were bringing the family of Mr. Eisenrich to the fort, when they were overtaken by Indians. Eisenrich was killed and his wife and five children were taken prisoners.

Mrs. Zimmerman, who was blind, and her remaining children, and Mrs. Eune and her children, five in number, were captured and taken to the house of David Faribault, where they were kept till night, the savages torturing them by telling them that they were going to fasten them in the house and burn them alive, but for some inexplicable reason let them go, and they, too, reached the fort in safety. Mr. Eune, who with one of his boys, eleven years old, remained behind to drive in his cattle, was met by them on the road and killed. The boy was captured, and, with the other prisoners, recovered at Camp Release.

The neighborhoods in the vicinity of La Croix creek, and between that and Fort Ridgely, were visited on Monday forenoon, and the people either massacred, driven away or made prisoners. Edward Magner, living eight miles above the fort, was killed. His wife and children had gone to the fort. He had returned to look after his cattle when he was shot. Patrick Kelly and David O'Connor, both single men, were killed near Magner's.

Horan's Tale. The Horan family lived in what is now Renville county, on the Fort Ridgely road, four miles below the Lower Agency. Kearn Horan, after the outbreak, made the following statement:

On August 18, Patrick Horan, my brother, came early from the Agency and told us that the Indians were murdering the whites. He had escaped alone and crossed the ferry, and with some Frenchmen was on his way to the fort. My brothers and William and Thomas Smith went with me. We saw Indians in the road near Magner's. Thomas Smith went to them, thinking they were white men, and I saw them kill him. We then turned to flee, and saw men escaping with teams along the road. All fled towards the fort together, the Indians firing upon us as we ran. The teams were oxen, and the Indians were gaining upon us, when one of the men in his excitement dropped his gun. The savages came up to it and picked it up. All stopped to examine it, and the men in the wagons whipped the oxen into a run. This delay enabled us to elude them.

As we passed the house of Ole Sampson, Mrs. Sampson was crying at the door for help. Her three children were with her. We told her to go into the bush and hide, for we could not help her. We ran into a ravine and hid in the grass. After the Indians had hunted some time for us, they came along the side of the ravine, and called to us in good English, saying, "Come out, boys; what are you afraid of? We don't want to hurt you." After they left us we crawled out and made our way to the fort, where we arrived at about 4 o'clock p. m. My family had gone there before me. Mrs. Sampson did not go to the bush, but hid in the wagon from which they had recently come from Waseca county. It was what we call a prairie schooner, covered with

cloth, a genuine emigrant wagon. They took her babe from her, and throwing it down upon the grass, put hay under the wagon, set fire to it and went away. Mrs. Sampson got out of the wagon, badly burned, and taking her infant from the ground made her way to the fort. Two of her children were burned to death in the wagon. Mr. Sampson had been previously killed about eighty rods from the house.

At Birch Cooley. In the neighborhood of La Croix creek, or Birch Coolie, Peter Perean, Frederick Clausen, Mr. Piguar, Andrew Bahlke, Henry Keartner, Charles Clausen and Mrs. William Vitt, and several others were killed. Mrs. Maria Frorip, an aged German woman, was wounded four different times with small shot, but escaped to the fort. The wife of Henry Keartner also escaped and reached the fort. The wife and child of a Mr. Cardenelle were taken prisoners, as were also the wife and child of Frederick Clausen. Carl Witt came into Fort Ridgely, but not until he had, with his own hands, buried his murdered wife and also a Mr. Piguar.

On the Sacred Heart. A flourishing German settlement had sprung up near Patterson's Rapids, on the Sacred Heart, twelve miles below Yellow Medicine.

Word came to this neighborhood about sundown of the eighteenth, that the Indians were murdering the whites. This news was brought to them by two men who had started from the Lower Agency, and had seen the lifeless and mutilated remains of the murdered victims lying upon the road and in their plundered dwellings towards Beaver creek. The whole neighborhood, with the exception of one family, that of Mr. Schwandt, soon assembled at the house of Paul Kitzman, with their oxen and wagons, and prepared to start for Fort Ridgely.

A messenger was sent to the house of Schwandt but the Indian rifle and the tomahawk had done their fearful work. Of all that family but two survived; one a boy, August, who witnessed the awful scene of butchery, and he then went on his way, covered with blood, towards Fort Ridgely. The other, a young girl, of about seventeen years of age, then residing at Redwood, was captured. Her story is told elsewhere.

The party at Kitzman's started in the evening to make their escape, going so as to avoid the settlements and the traveled roads, striking across the country toward the head of Beaver creek.

They traveled this way all night, and in the morning changed their course towards Fort Ridgely. They continued in this direction until the sun was some two hours high, when they were met by eight Sioux Indians, who told them that the murders were committed by Chippewas, and that they had come over to protect them and punish the murderers; and thus induced them to

turn back toward their homes. One of the savages spoke English well. He was acquainted with some of the company, having often hunted with Paul Kitzman. He kissed Kitzman, telling him he was a good man; and they shook hands with all of the party. The simple hearted Germans believed them, gave them food, distributed money among them, and, gratefully receiving their assurances of friendship and protection, turned back.

They traveled on toward their deserted homes till noon, when they again halted, and gave their pretended protectors food. The Indians went away by themselves to eat. The suspicious of the fugitives were now somewhat aroused, but they felt that they were, to a great extent, in the power of the wretches. They soon came back, and ordered them to go on, taking their position on each side of the train. Soon after they went on and disappeared. The train kept on toward home; and when within a few rods of a house, where they thought they could defend themselves, as they had guns with them, they were suddenly surrounded by fourteen Indians, who instantly fired upon them, killing eight (all but three of the men), at the first discharge. At the next fire they killed two of the remaining men and six of the women, leaving only one man, Frederick Kreiger, alive. His wife was also, as yet, unhurt. They soon dispatched Kreiger, and, at the same time, began beating out the brains of the screaming children with the butts of their guns. Mrs. Kreiger was standing in the wagon, and, when her husband fell, attempted to spring from it to the ground, but was shot from behind, and fell back in the wagon-box, although not dead, or entirely unconscious. She was roughly seized and dragged to the ground, and the teams were driven off. She now became insensible. A few of the children, during this awful scene, escaped to the timber near by; and a few also maimed and mangled by these horrible monsters, and left for dead, survived, and, after enduring incredible hardships, got to Fort Ridgely. Mrs. Zable, and five children, were horribly mangled, and almost naked, entered the fort eleven days afterward. Mrs. Kreiger also survived her sufferings.

Some forty odd bodies were afterward found and buried on that fatal field of slaughter. Thus perished, by the hands of these terrible scourges of the border, almost an entire neighborhood. Quiet, sober, and industrious, they had come hither from the vine-clad hills of their fatherland, by the green shores and gliding waters of the enchanting Rhine, and had built for themselves homes, where they had fondly hoped, in peace and quiet, to spend yet long years, under the fair, blue sky, and in the sunny clime of Minnesota, when suddenly, and in one short hour, by the hands of those whose land they had usurped, they were doomed to one common annihilation.

Brown's Family Captured. The news of the murders below reached Leopold Wohler at the "lime-kiln," three miles below Yellow Medicine, on Monday afternoon. Taking his wife, he crossed the Minnesota river, and went to the house of Major Joseph R. Brown, on the Sacred Heart.

Major Brown's family consisted of his wife and nine children; Angus Brown and wife, and Charles Blair, a son-in-law, his wife, and two children. The Major himself was away from home. Including Wohler and his wife, there were then at their house, on the evening of the eighteenth of August, eighteen persons.

They started, early on the morning of the nineteenth, to make their escape, with one or two others of their neighbors, Charles Holmes, a single man, residing on the claim above them, being of the party. They were overtaken near Beaver creek by Indians, and all of the Browns, Mr. Blair and family, and Mrs. Wohler, were captured, and taken at once to Little Crow's village. Messrs. Wohler and Holmes escaped. Major Brown's family were of mixed Indian blood. This fact, probably, accounts for their saving the life of Blair, who was a white man.

Crow told him to go away, as his young men were going to kill him; and he made his escape to Fort Ridgely, being out some five days and nights without food. When he entered the post, he was completely exhausted yet Lieutenant Sheehan had him arrested and confined as a spy thus hastening his death. Mr. Blair was in poor health. The hardships he endured were too much for his already shattered constitution; and although he escaped the tomahawk and scalping-knife, he was soon numbered among the victims of the massacre.

J. H. Ingalls, a Scotchman, who resided in this neighborhood, and his wife, were killed, and their four children were taken into captivity. Two of them, young girls, aged twelve and fourteen years, were rescued at Camp Release, and the two little boys were taken away by Little Crow. Their fate is still shrouded in mystery. A Mr. Frace, residing near Brown's place, was also killed. His wife and two children were found at Camp Release.

John Kochendorfer, Jr. August 18, 1862, came the terrible events which robbed so many families of parents or children and in some instances wiped out entire families. My father was in the field, haying, when called into the log claim house to partake of the lunch which my mother had prepared. He had stepped into the bedroom when an Indian, as was customary in that locality in those days, called at the cabin and asked for my father. The Indian had a gun in his hand, which he stood near the corner of the house outside. My father then opened the door of the room, greeting with his usual cordiality the

Indian, who seemed friendly. The redskin then took the family axe that stood at the corner of the house, and threw it in the brush, a short distance from the house. Although I was a boy of but eleven years, I noticed that something was wrong and called my father's attention to what the Indian had done. My father then went out and brought back the axe. In the meantime I noticed that the Indians were gathering in groups in the distance. My father then took up his position in front of the cabin, with one foot on the bench, ready to protect my mother and us helpless children, of whom I was the oldest. A shot rang out on the air and my father fell backward, the victim of the treachery of a race to whom he had always shown the greatest kindness. Prior to his death he had warned us children to flee for our lives. My mother was washing at the time and while running we heard the screams which showed she, too, had fallen a victim to savage cruelty. My youngest sister, Sarah, was in hiding under the bed. She, too, was dragged forth and cruelly slaughtered. I took my sisters, named Rose, Katie and Maggie, aged at that time nine, seven and five, respectively, and ran for the woods, running seven miles before we met anyone. Our neighbor, Michael Belter, came down the road, and at first we were afraid that he was another Indian. But we were finally reassured and after he overtook us we told him our terrible story. We were informed by him that a party was on its way with wagons following us. Later as we continued our way we were overtaken by them. We were carried to Fort Ridgely that night and there our whole party remained until reinforcements arrived from St. Paul, two weeks later, when a provision train with a company of cavalry as an escort, took us to St. Peter, from where we were started on a boat for the city of St. Paul.

Editor's Note: Some years ago while excavations were being conducted on the farm of Henry Timms, the bones of a man, woman and child were found. These were claimed by John Kochendorfer, Jr., as those of his father and mother and sister.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

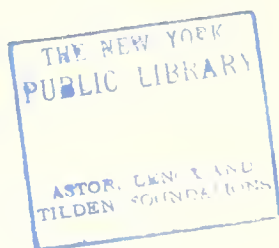
BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW.

Pioneers and Later Comers Whose Industry Has Helped to Build up the County—Early Experiences in an Unsettled Country—Leaders in Urban and Rural Life—Family Histories of Well-Known Men—Amusing Stories of the Frontier Days.

Thor Helgeson, the pioneer, is one of the most influential citizens in the western part of Renville county. For nearly fifty years he has taken a part in its growth and progress, and his voice has ever been raised in defense of whatever he believes to be just and right. His memory of the early days is very clear and much of the information for the early history of this part of the county has been gathered from him. Thor Helgeson was born in Brandsgaarden, Opdal, Nummedal, Norway, May 5, 1841, son of Henry and Birget Helgeson, being one of seventeen children. He was reared in the old country and, in 1861, started for America, reaching Quebec after a voyage of eleven weeks and three days aboard a sailing vessel. By boat and railroad he finally reached Winona, in this state, from which point he went to Rushford, in Fillmore county. He landed without a cent, and the first money he earned went to pay the money he had borrowed for his fair. Wages were small, and he received only a dollar a day during haying season and a dollar and a quarter during harvest season. At other seasons of the year labor was worth still less. In 1863, when the Civil war was raging, Thor Helgeson planned to go to the defense of his adopted country. His name was drawn for the draft and he went to Lewiston, in Winona county, every Saturday to drill with a military company there, but it was found that he did not have his citizen's papers and he was not mustered in. In 1866 he came to Renville county and settled in Sacred Heart township among the very first settlers after the massacre. The story of his coming, the names of the people who accompanied him, and many of his stories of the early days appear elsewhere. The surveys had not then been made. When the surveys were made, it was found that Mr. Helgeson's farm was in four sections, sections 5, 6, 7 and 8. He is probably the only man in the Northwest who secured a preemption in four different sections. He paid for this preemption in soldiers' script at the rate of ten shillings an acre. It is interesting to note that when Mr. Helgeson landed on the site of his future home the first thing he did was to take the stove from the wagon and have his good wife make some coffee.



THOR HELGESON AND FAMILY



For a home, Mr. Helgeson took the covered box from the wagon and fixed it in some crotches to make a shelter. There the family lived until Mr. Helgeson could haul logs from the bottoms and make a log cabin. It is interesting to note that he owned the wagon in which he came, a pair of oxen, two cows, a heifer, and two sheep. These were the first sheep brought into the township. The family owned a spinning wheel which had been brought from Norway by Groe Helgeson, a sister of Thor Helgeson. She died on the ocean coming over, and her belongings were sent to Iowa, where Mr. Helgeson went to get them. With this wheel, Mrs. Helgeson spun thread for the first wool cloth made in Sacred Heart township. The family in the early days underwent numerous hardships. Many of their experiences are related elsewhere and some of their adventures have been widely published in the Norwegian language. Mr. Helgeson was the first man in the township to plant apple trees, and as time passed he received many awards for his fruit at county and state exhibits. He also set out other trees on his land and a fine grove now results from the saplings he set out in those early days. There is on the place a cottonwood tree six feet in diameter, which he himself planted when it was scarcely an inch in diameter. As time passed, Mr. Helgeson achieved prosperity. He increased his holdings to 214 acres, erected a good frame house and suitable outbuildings, and became one of the leading men of his vicinity. It was in 1906 that he retired from farming and moved to Sacred Heart where he now resides in a comfortable home, surrounded by the honor and esteem of all who know him. He has been cheered throughout his married life by the sympathy, love and encouragement of his good wife, a woman of unusual qualities, who is looked up to by all who know her. The influence of this couple has been one for good for many years and their home is noted for its good cheer and hospitality. Both Mr. and Mrs. Helgeson are prominent members of the Updal Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Helgeson helped to haul the stone for the church. He also has been a member of the board of his district and helped to haul the logs for the first schoolhouse in the district. Mr. Helgeson was married in Fillmore county in 1864 to Helge Halvorsdotter, whose father and mother came to Fillmore county in 1857 and to Renville county in 1868.

Mr. and Mrs. Helgeson have been blessed with thirteen children: Berget Andrea was born Oct. 20, 1864. Halvor Astenius was born Jan. 17, 1867. Anna is dead. Helge was born Nov. 12, 1870. Ole was born July 23, 1872. Gina is dead. Gina Helene was born April 31, 1876. Endre was born Nov. 28, 1877. Stener was born Jan. 18, 1880. Turi, twin of Stener, is dead. Hanna Gunhilda was born April 18, 1882. Theodor was born Oct. 13, 1884. An unnamed infant is deceased.

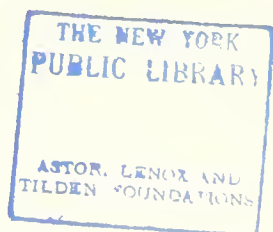
Charles H. Hopkins, father of the Fort Ridgely National Park project, veteran of the Civil war, prominent G. A. R. man and leading citizen, now residing in Fairfax, was born in Norwich, New York, Oct. 6, 1844, son of Maturin and Mary M. (Hainer) Hopkins. The father was born in New York in 1822, located in Otsego county, Wis., in 1861, came to Renville county in 1869, and secured 160 acres in the southwest quarter of section 34, Cairo township, where he remained until his death in 1893. The mother was born in 1822 and died in 1899. Charles H. Hopkins came to Wisconsin with his parents and enlisted Nov. 23, 1863 in the 13th Wisconsin Light Artillery. The battery patrolled the Mississippi river from Memphis to Vicksburg, was stationed at Ft. Williams Baton Rouge and participated in raids after Forrest through Mississippi and Louisiana. He was discharged June 21, 1865. In 1869 he came to Cairo township, Renville county, and squatted on the southwest quarter of section 33, on the military reservation. He preempted this farm under the law of 1871 and homesteaded it under the soldiers' act of 1886, a law that he was instrumental in getting passed by Congress. After operating this farm for many years he retired in 1898 to Fairfax, where he engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business. Mr. Hopkins was one of the seven commissioners appointed by the governor to purchase the first tract of land and erect the monument that stands on the same place where the flagstaff stood in the center of the parade ground at old Fort Ridgely.

In public affairs, Mr. Hopkins has taken a most prominent part. His connection with the monument and park at Ft. Ridgely is noted elsewhere. His father and himself hewed out the logs and built the first school house for District No. 17, which is now the Fairfax high school. The teacher could not call the school to order in the spring of 1870, the first day of the spring term, until 11 A. M. waiting for the school house to be finished. He was the first president of the school board of Fairfax, after District No. 17 became an independent district. He has been justice of the peace forty years, and school clerk of District No. 32 twenty-eight years. In 1894 he was candidate for the office of state auditor on the Populist ticket. In 1914-15 he was department commander of the Minnesota Department G. A. R. In 1911-12 he was senior vice-commander. He assisted in organizing the Ben Franklin Post No. 116, of Morton, Franklin and Fairfax, of which post he has been commander. He has also served the public in many other positions of public honor and private trust.

Mr. Hopkins was married Dec. 15, 1872, to Susan M. Christman, born May 7, 1848, daughter of Nicholas Christman, a farmer of Nicollet county, who died in 1891 at the age of seventy-six, and of Catherine (Schafer) Christman, who died in 1884, at the age of seventy-six. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins are



CHARLES H. HOPKINS



Hayward V., born Sept. 28, 1873; Frank M., born Nov. 7, 1877, and Gladys, born Nov. 14, 1882.

Thus briefly is told the story of the man whose work will bless unborn generations for uncounted years to come. His dream of a park at Ft. Ridgely to honor the past and inspire the future and furnish a recreation place for all has been realized. In the face of discouragement, at great personal sacrifice, he has gone his way since the earliest days, working for this great project. He is the friend of all, his unselfish zeal and devotion is given to every good cause which attracts his sympathies, and the full inspiration of his life on those with whom he comes in contact can never be measured. As soldier, citizen, parent, husband and friend he has ever been an example for good throughout the community.

Adam Rieke, a defender of Ft. Ridgely, was born in Hanover, Germany, June, 1840, being one of a family of thirteen children, nine boys and four girls. His father was a miller by trade and rented a mill run by water power. Adam had but little chance for attending school. At the age of fourteen he began work for a farmer, receiving \$6.00 per year and his board. Fred was the first one of the family to come to America in 1853 and George came in 1855. The two boys saved their money and sent it home so that the rest of the family could come to the United States. In 1856 the rest of the family came by sailing vessel and were seven weeks and two days on the water, arriving at Baltimore Sept. 2, 1856. From there they went to Ohio, locating in Jackson county where Adam worked three and a half years as a teamster for the iron furnace. Then he left Ohio and went by boat to St. Louis, going from there to St. Paul by way of the Mississippi river. From St. Paul he went up the Minnesota river to St. Peter and, leaving his goods there, drove to Ft. Ridgely, going on to Mud Lake, where Victor and George Rieke had settled the year before. A house was built on the bank of Mud Lake. It was of logs, 16 by 24, Victor and George having prepared and hauled up the logs previously. All lived in that one house. In 1861 Adam took a 160-acre homestead which is now in Cairo township in section 35. He had no tools, but went to work with a good will. He broke up part of the prairie land with four yoke of oxen, the plow cutting a twenty-four inch slice. Then he seeded the land by hand to small grain, but had no crop on account of the blackbirds eating the seed. He learned to trap mink and muskrat and sold their pelts at New Ulm, this side line bringing in a little money. His nearest neighbor on the south, three miles away, was William Mills, and three-quarters of a mile to the northwest was John Buchro. In 1862 the Indian massacre broke out and all fled to Ft. Ridgely, where Adam and his brothers took part in the defense. After the massacre he

returned to his farm. In 1863-64 the grasshoppers destroyed everything, even the grass on the prairie and the leaves on the trees, so trapping again had to be the means of livelihood. In 1865 he harvested a small crop of rye. In 1869 he and his brother, August, bought a ten-horse power threshing machine and engaged in threshing, which they continued for the next twenty-five years. From 1873 to 1876 the grasshoppers again destroyed all the crops. In 1872 he bought a tract of 120 acres land from the Winona & St. Peter Railway Co. in section 35 and, in 1886, a tract of 120 acres in section 27, this latter piece now being owned by his son, Louis. Then he bought another piece of eighty acres in section 35, which is now owned by his second son, Edward. At present he owns 240 acres valued at \$125 per acre, and is still farming at the old age of seventy-five years.

Mr. Rieke was married in 1871 to Ernestina Sauder, daughter of a farmer near Henderson. Four children were born to this union: Louis, Edward, Anna, who died when twelve years of age, of diphtheria, and Adolph.

The George and Allied Families. William Wallace George was born Oct. 12, 1853, at New Alexandria, Pennsylvania. He lived with his father until 1882. At the age of 29 he went to McPherson county, South Dakota, which at that time was the frontier east of the Rockies. In 1884 he was married to Josephine Kribs. Five children were born to this union on the homestead in South Dakota. The family removed to Renville, Minnesota, in 1896. Josephine (Kribs) George was born at Mantorville, Minn., Feb. 28, 1865. Prior to her marriage she taught school and music in Minnesota and South Dakota. William and Josephine (Kribs) George are the parents of six children, all living.

Jess Ruth, born October 2, 1886, graduated from Renville public schools and Winona State Normal School; married Oscar A. Berg, Jan. 1, 1910, at Renville, Minn., and has one daughter, Jean Shirley.

James McBride, born Feb. 7, 1888; graduated from Renville public schools and the University of Minnesota, 1910; now practicing law at Winona, Minn.; member of Phi Kappa Sigma, Delta Theta Phi (law fraternity), Arlington Club (Winona), Meadowbrook Golf Club (Winona), Y. M. C. A. (Winona), Sons American Revolution, Order of Washington and Minnesota Historical Society.

Eugene Sherman, born July 11, 1889; graduated from Renville public schools, attended University of Minnesota, and was graduated from St. Paul College of Law 1915; now practicing law at Glenwood, Minn.; member of the college fraternities named above.

Winston Remington, born March 9, 1891; attended Renville public schools.

Cedric Kribs, born Sept. 18, 1893; attended Renville public schools.

Shirley McClure, born Oct. 6, 1898; student Renville public schools.

Oscar A. Berg, born at Christiania, Norway, in 1885, is the son of Ole Berg and Marie (Hanson) Berg. Ole Berg was born in Christiania in 1845, and was a civil government officer until he retired and purchased an estate of 1,000 acres on Lake Sjarvangen. His grandfather and great-grandfather were lumbermen. Marie (Hanson) Berg, born in 1852 at Kronsinger, married in 1873, was a graduate nurse. Her father was a farmer.

James George, of Scotch ancestry, was born in Ireland in 1760. He came to America in 1778 and made his home in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania. He married Mary McClure, also of Scotch-Irish descent, in 1790, and crossed the Alleghanies, where he possessed himself of 240 acres of land in Loyallhannah township, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. He died Jan. 18, 1854. The home place descended to William, the youngest son, and remained in his possession to the date of his death. He was born May 28, 1816, married Naney McBride in December, 1844, and died Jan. 21, 1891. On the death of William, the old home was left to his wife for life with remainder over to the two youngest sons. It is still in her possession (1916). William was the father of William Wallace, mentioned above.

Nancy McBride, born July 29, 1827, the wife of William George, Sr., was the daughter of Hon. Henry McClure McBride and Elizabeth (Kerr) McBride. Henry McClure McBride was born Aug. 16, 1800, on the old McBride homestead adjoining that of the Georges. His marriage took place Sept. 20, 1824. He served two terms as state senator and filled other local public offices and died Jan. 7, 1875. He is buried with his father, grandfather and great-grandfather in the family cemetery. The home descended to his son, James, who left it to his daughter, Lulu, now the wife of William Beatty. The parents of Henry were James McBride and Martha (Young) McBride. James was born March 15, 1758, in New Jersey. He was a soldier of the Revolution, serving in Captain James Moore's company, of Westmoreland County Rangers. His father was a member of the same company. He died Dec. 21, 1837, at the age of eighty, after a life of many hardships. One of his daughters was killed in an Indian raid during the war. His pension papers for services in the Revolution are on record at the United States Pension Office, Book C., Vol. 5, page 84. He was the son of James McBride, Sr., and Mary, his wife. James, Sr., was born in 1717 and died in 1812. His will was probated June 17, 1812, and was dated March 2, 1805, and is recorded in Will Book I, page 285, Westmoreland county,

Pennsylvania. In 1802, January 8, he deeded the old home to his son, James, after having possession for several years.

Elizabeth Kerr, the wife of Henry McClure McBride, born March 4, 1804, died March 28, 1874, was the daughter of David Kerr and Nancy (Huey) Kerr. David was born Jan. 30, 1783, and fought in the war of 1812. He died Sept. 27, 1866. His parents were William Kerr and Margaret (Young) Kerr. He also was a member of Captain James Moore's company of rangers.

Martha Young, the wife of James McBride, Jr., born in 1759, died April 15, 1828, was the daughter of Alexander Young and Anna, his wife. Alexander died in 1798. The county records show that letters of administration of his estate were granted Sept. 26, 1798. He is buried on the old farm. The will of his father, Alexander, was probated in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1751. Alexander, Sr., was the son of James Young, who was the son of Captain Thomas Young, of London, who settled in Jamestown, Virginia.

The Youngs, through two lines, are descended from Kings of Wales. Tudor Trevor, the son of the heiress of William le Yonge, was the grandfather of Henry Tudor, who slew Richard III of England at Bosworth field and became Henry VII of England, fulfilling the prophecy that a Welchman would some day rule over Great Britain.

Nancy Huey, the wife of David Kerr, was the daughter of Joseph Huey and Jane (Love) Huey. Joseph died in 1806.

Mary McClure, the wife of James George, was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, Oct. 19, 1770, and died in 1841.

According to the "History of Westmoreland County," the Georges, McBrides and Kerrs were among the earliest settlers in the county.

Joseph Shafer Kribs, the father of Josephine (Kribs) George, was born near Hamilton, Ontario, March 18, 1836, and died Nov. 24, 1864. His health prevented him from taking part in the Civil war, consequently he furnished the government with a substitute. He was married to Anna W. Remington at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Jan. 11, 1859. They had besides Josephine one other daughter, Ruth, who married Simon Hanson, late of Renville. Her two sons, Roslyn Joseph and Rodney S., born and educated in Renville, are living in North Dakota, the former engaged in a bank and the latter practicing law. Joseph was a jeweler at Trempealeau, Wisconsin, at the time of his death, Nov. 24, 1864. He was the son of Paul Kribs and Ruth (Sherman) Kribs. Paul was born near Hamilton, Ontario, Jan. 1, 1797, and died in Trempealeau, Oct. 16, 1866. He was married in Barton township, Ontario, Jan. 18, 1816, by Rev. Daniel Eastman. His father was Aaron Kribs, who came to New York in 1776.

The Kribs family began preparations to emigrate from Germany, their native land, in 1774, to a large tract of land which they had acquired in Canada. They came from a settlement near Berlin. The boundaries of their Canadian lands are roughly described as "Commencing at the Niagara Falls, running west about sixty miles and lying north of Grand River and south of Lake Ontario." But when the colony arrived, in 1776, they found the Revolutionary war in progress, and, being unable to settle upon their Canadian possessions, they located temporarily in New York and New Jersey. Some of the family served in the war, and it was not until 1786 that Aaron Kribs and some of his relatives made their way northward into Canada.

Anna W. Remington, the wife of Joseph Kribs, was born Jan. 20, 1844, at Granger, Alleghany county, New York. After the death of her first husband she married James Hart, and removed to Meeker county, Minnesota, thence to McPherson county, South Dakota, where she now lives. Her parents were Abner Remington and Nancy Elizabeth (Reynolds) Remington, of Alleghany county, New York, and later of Kasson, Minnesota. They were married Feb. 6, 1842. Abner was born at Genoa, New York, Aug. 31, 1819, and died April 4, 1898. He was commissary-sergeant of Company A, Fifth Minnesota Volunteers, during four years of the Civil war, and later postmaster and justice of the peace at Kasson. He was the son of Salmon Remington and Thankful (Kemp) Remington. Salmon was born Sept. 2, 1794, and was killed May 17, 1857, while driving a team of colts. His father was Moses Remington, a wealthy Quaker of Genoa, Cayuga county, New York, born May 21, 1768 (3); died Feb. 24, 1836. He married Rebecca ———, by whom he had ten children. His second wife was Rachel (Guthrie) Kemp, widow of John Kemp. Rebecca ——— was born Feb. 8 (3), 1776, and died March 30, 1820. They were married Oct. 14, 1792. Moses, originally of Vermont, purchased of an English company 600 acres of forest in Cayuga county, New York. Upon arriving at his property overland from Vermont, he found located thereon a tract of about 100 acres which had for years since been swept clear of trees by a "hurricane," the name at that time given to destructive wind storms of every description. It was only necessary for him to burn the sumac and other shrubbery before the virgin soil was ready for cultivation. Upon finding this tract, he prepared it for seed and carried on his back, from his former home in Vermont, enough potato seed to raise 500 bushels, from which he was well paid for his labors.

Nancy Elizabeth (Reynolds) Remington was born Feb. 5, 1825, in Skaneateles, Onondaga county, New York, and died Feb. 14, 1888, at Kasson, Minnesota. She was the daughter of Aziza Reynolds and Phoebe (Platt) Reynolds, of Onondaga and Al-

legmany counties, New York. Aziza had five brothers and six sisters, all of them peculiarly named, each name reading the same when spelled forward or backward as, for example: Harrah, Iri, Numun, Alila, Hannah, Alla, Appa, Ada and Anna. Aziza received a land warrant for services in the war of 1812. His father, according to tradition, served in the Revolution. Phoebe (Platt) Reynolds was the daughter of Dr. Platt, a direct descendant of the founder of Plattsburg, New York.

Ruth (Sherman) Kribs, born in Buffalo Creek, New York, Dec. 11, 1797, died Nov. 9, 1871 at Trempealeau, Wisconsin, was the daughter of William Sherman and Ruth (Bateman) Sherman. She married Paul Kribs in Barton township, Ontario, Jan. 18, 1816. Her parents both died at Dundas, Ontario, in 1813 (14), during an epidemic of typhoid fever, and the duty of raising the family fell upon her. Her father was a cooper and, in 1812, was engaged to make snare drums for the British at Hamilton. At the outbreak of the war with England he was visiting in New York and had great difficulty in returning to Canada. He and his wife, Ruth Bateman, were natives of Massachusetts, probably Rochester. His father was named William, or "Billy," and is supposed to have been a sea captain sailing between New York and Liverpool and was killed on one of his voyages. Records of Rochester show that a William Sherman married Abigail Handy, June 4, 1752, and had 14 children, among them William, Jonathan, Alice, Sally and Jane. William and Jonathan were twins, baptized Nov. 9, 1766, and the former is believed to be the one who married Ruth Bateman and named five of his children after the five named above.

William Sherman, the sea captain, supposed to be the William who lived in Rochester and married Abigail Handy was, if the supposition is correct, the son of John Sherman, Jr., the grandson of John Sherman, Sr., and the great-grand son of William Sherman, "The Pilgrim," who settled at Plymouth and Marshfield, Mass., and whose descendants are, therefore, of Mayflower ancestry.

Thankful (Kemp) Remington who at the age of fourteen, married Salmon Remington, died Feb. 14, 1888, was the daughter of John Kemp and Rachel (Guthrie) Kemp and was born in Scipio, New York. Her father died in 1809. He came originally from Massachusetts and, according to the "History of Tioga County" (Pa.), was a member of the New York State Militia and fought in the Revolution. His father was Silas Kemp who married Tammerston ———, and was a native of Massachusetts. Silas fought in the Revolution as a private in Captain Nehemiah Curtis' company of Colonel Jonathan Mitchel's (Mass.) regiment, in which he enlisted July 7, 1779, and was mustered out Sept. 25, 1779, taking part in the Penobscot expedition. His enlistment roll was

dated at Harpswell, Massachusetts (Mass. Men of the Revolution).

Rachel (Guthrie) Kemp is the descendant of an old Scotch family whose record runs back to the time when Robert Bruce and Sir William Wallace were fighting for Scotch freedom in the thirteenth century. The first Guthrie, of whom there is any record, was Squire Guthrie, of Forfairshire, Scotland, born in 1299. He was sent to France to procure the return of the patriot Wallace. Alexander Guthrie, of Guthrie, a grandson, obtained the Barony of Guthrie from King David II of Scotland. He was granted the Estate of Kinkoldrum by charter, dated April 10, 1457. His wife was named Margorie, and they had Sir David, James and William. Rev. James Guthrie, of Edinborough, a descendant and son of the Laird of Guthrie, was minister at Sterling, where he was executed for his religious beliefs and writings, June 1, 1661. He was the father of John Guthrie, Sr., who died in 1730 and who was an iron worker of Edinborough. He migrated to Ulster, Ireland, in 1680, thence to Boston in 1700, and from there to Litchfield county, Connecticut. His son, John, married Abigail Coe at Stratford, Connecticut, June 1, 1727, and they had ten children. He died in 1756. Their son, Ephraim, born at Durham, Connecticut, March 1, 1737, died in Auburn, New York. He married Thankful Stone and lived in Kent for some time. He enlisted in Captain Wooster's company of King's foot soldiers for an invasion of Canada in 1758. His enlistment papers are on record at Boston. Tradition says that he fought against the King when the colonies later obtained their freedom. Rachel, his daughter, referred to above, was born October 27, 1779, died April 21, 1865. She married first, John Kemp, second Moses Remington.

Thankful Stone, the wife of Ephraim Guthrie, was the daughter of Josiah Stone, born April 10, 1710, who married Hannah Barnes, September 14, 1738, and died November 10, 1777. He was the son of Josiah Stone, of Guilford, Connecticut, born May 22, 1685, who married Temperance Osborn, of East Hampton, Long Island, June 29, 1705. Josiah Sr., was descended from William, born in 1642, who married Hannah Wolfe, February 20, 1674 and later Mary ———: died Sept. 28, 1730. His father, William Sr., whose second wife was Mary Hughes, married in 1659, came to America in 1639, died November, 1683. His father was Rev. Samuel Stone, of Hertford, County Surrey, England.

Abigail Coe was born Nov. 11, 1702, at Stratford, Connecticut, was married to John Guthrie June 1, 1727, and removed to Durham, Connecticut in 1735, thence to Southbury, Connecticut, in 1743, where she died in March, 1747. She was the daughter of Captain John Coe, born May 10, 1658, at Stratford, Connecticut. He succeeded to the real estate of his father in Stratford

and in addition acquired extensive holdings and became a leading man in public affairs. He was, in addition to holding many town offices, deputy for Stratford in the Connecticut Assembly. He was successively commissioned ensign, lieutenant and captain and served in the French and Indian war during 1708. On Dec. 20, 1682, he married Mary Hawley, died April 19, 1741, and is interred with her in the Congregational churchyard at Stratford. His father, Robert Coe, Jr., was born at Boxford, Suffolk county, England, and baptized there Sept. 19, 1626. When seven years of age, he came to America with his father. About 1650 he married Hannah Mitchell, who was baptized at Halifax, Yorkshire, England, June 26, 1631, the daughter of Mathew and Susan (Butterfield) Mitchell, who came to New England in the spring of 1635, settling at Wethersfield, Connecticut. She died April 2, 1702. Robert died in 1659 and was buried at Stratford. Robert Coe, Sr., the founder of the New England family, was born (baptized October 26) 1596 at Thorp-Morieux in Suffolk county, England. His father, Henry Coe, was a substantial yeoman, probably a cloth maker and a man of character and standing, holding for several years at Thorp-Morieux the honorable position of church warden. Robert, Sr., was elected overseer of cloth at Boxford in 1625 and was chosen "questman" of the church in 1629. On April 20, 1634, he and his family sailed from Ipswich among the 83 passengers on the ship "Francis," commanded by Captain John Cutting. He resided at Watertown, Massachusetts, and founded, with others, Wethersfield, Connecticut; Stamford, Connecticut (1641); Hempstead, Long Island (1644); Newtown, New York (1652); and Jamaica, Long Island (1656). He married Mary ——— in England about 1623; she was the mother of all his children. Robert Coe, Sr., died in 1689 and his wife, Mary, Oct. 27, 1628. He was married twice in America. He is descended through the following line from John Coo (Coe), of Gestingthorpe, England: John¹, John², John³, Thomas⁴, John⁵, John⁶, John⁷, Henry⁸. John¹ Coo was born in Gestingthorpe, Essex county, in 1340, during the reign of Edward III, and died in 1415. He served against France under Sir John Hawkwood, Knight, and about 1360 he went to Italy as a captain, under Sir John, who took with him one thousand picked Englishmen, afterward famed throughout Italy as the "Compagnia Bianca" (White Company), concerning which Conan Doyle wrote the romantic novel of that name.

Mary (Hawley) Coe, born July 16, 1663, died Sept. 9, 1731, was the daughter of Joseph Hawley, a shipbuilder born at Parwick, Derbyshire, England, in 1603, died in Stratford, Connecticut, May 20, 1690, and Cathrine (Birdseye) Hawley. He was deacon and treasurer of the First Congregational church of Stratford, Connecticut, town clerk and recorder for sixteen years, and



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deputy to the General Assembly from 1665 to 1685. He came originally to Boston in 1629 and removed to Stratford, Connecticut, in 1646.

The Sherman Coat of Arms: Or a lion rampant, sable, between three leaves vert. The Crest: On a wreath a sea lion sejant or. By right of the Leicester grant of 1619.

At the Visitation of Essex in 1612, Edward Coe entered a pedigree of his family, claiming for arms: Argent, three piles wavy meeting near the base gules between twelve martlets sable. His claim was based on the seals appearing on two deeds over two centuries old at that time, bearing the names of John¹ Coe and John² Coe. The heralds acknowledged his descent and right to the coat of arms.

The Hawley Coat of Arms: Vert a saltier, or a St. Andrews' cross, engrailed argent. Crest: A dexter arm in armour proper, garnished, holding in the hand a spear, in bent sinister, pointed downward proper. Motto: "Suivez Moi."

The arms of the Youngs, who are descended from Tudor Trevor, are shown in various detail, the most common being a plain shield with a lion rampant or; and the crest: a greyhound passant proper. It also appears this wise with the same crest: Ermine and counter of the same per bend sinister, a lion rampant or.

Nathaniel J. Holmberg, state senator, was born July 24, 1878, in a log house erected by his father on his homestead in section 24, Sacred Heart township. He was the second son and fifth child of John M. and Mary C. Holmberg. His father, John M. Holmberg, was born in Smoland, Sweden, Dec. 23, 1838, and came to America in 1869, locating at St. Peter, Minnesota, where he worked on a farm for a while. While at St. Peter, he was married to Mary C. Wallin, who came from Stockholm, Sweden. Their romance commenced years prior to coming to America. They had heard about the opportunities in the "new world" and ventured to marry and make their way in the then undeveloped country. In 1871, they took up a homestead of 80 acres in section 24, Sacred Heart township. With very little property and penniless, they started to develop their new possessions, which the kind "Uncle Sam" had so generously given them. The "dugout" or sod house served as a home for a few years. Then came the log house, 16 by 20 feet, a straw barn and other buildings in keeping with the times. Here a family of eight children was born and raised to maturity, Rudolph, Esther, Emma, Ellen, Nathaniel, Ruth, Edith and David, all of whom are living.

The city of Willmar was the nearest market, being a distance of thirty-five miles. Regular trips were made to haul the grain and bring supplies for the farm and family in return. It was not an uncommon occurrence when streams were forded to have

to unload the load, drive the oxen and wagon across, then carry the sacks, one by one, in four and five feet of water, and reload on the other side. It would take several days to make the trip to Willmar. When they reached the city, there would be long strings of teams waiting to unload and everyone had to wait his turn. Meanwhile, the family had to get along as best they could at home.

John M. Holmberg took pride and interest in the social, religious and political life of the community. He helped to organize and served for many years as a director on the board of his home school district. He was a charter member of the Swedish Lutheran church at Sacred Heart. He took a deep interest in politics and was a staunch Republican. John M. Holmberg died in 1910, but his wife is still living and at the age of 74 is enjoying good health and marvels at the great changes taken place since they filed on their homestead.

Nathaniel Holmberg struggled along on the farm, going to country school when he could be spared from the farm work. He attended the school at Renville for three winters, and in the fall of 1899 enrolled at the Minnesota School of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, graduating therefrom in the spring of 1902.

Returning to the home farm, which he purchased from John M. Holmberg, and which he still owns and operates, the farm having been substantially increased in size, modern buildings have been erected and a herd of Shorthorn cattle is being developed.

On June 3, 1908, he was married to Hilda M. Peterson, daughter of P. J. Peterson who, like Mr. Holmberg's father, came from Sweden and settled in the same section and township, and who went through the same experiences of pioneer life. Mr. Holmberg and his wife went to the same country school, the same church, and were attached to each other from childhood. They have one daughter named Edith, born Dec. 16, 1911.

Nathaniel Holmberg, like his father, attached himself to the Republican party in politics. He served on the school board of his home school as supervisor of Sacred Heart township for three years. In 1907 he became the Republican candidate for the State Legislature and was elected to the House. Re-elected in 1909-1911 and 1913, in the primaries, 1914, he became a candidate for the State Senate and, after a spirited campaign, was elected state senator, which office he now holds.

Mr. Holmberg takes advanced ground on political questions. His courage and honesty is unquestioned and he commands the respect of his large constituency.

Hans H. Elstad, a professor at the Red Wing Seminary, was born at Ullensaker, Christiania, Stift, Norway, Nov. 3, 1860, son

of Haakon and Mathea (Hanson) Elstad. He attended public school in Norway and came to America in 1870 with his parents, **who located in Camp township, Renville county**, where he attended district school and grew up on the farm. In 1880 he entered the Red Wing Seminary and was graduated in 1884. Then he taught there one and a half years. Next he taught for three terms in the public schools of Camp and Bandon. In 1887 he became instructor in the Red Wing Seminary and taught Norwegian, history and physics in the academic department. Later he became professor of physics, astronomy and chemistry, in the college department, and geometry in the academic department. For several years he was a member of the board of trustees of the Hauges Synod and from 1889 to 1893 was associate editor of the "Budbareren," a weekly paper. He was on the board of publication for several years and was secretary and treasurer from 1899 to 1913, on the home mission board of the Hauges Synod. He also served for five years as secretary of the synod.

Sept. 26, 1889, Mr. Elstad was united in marriage to Anna Norum, of Minneapolis. They have the following children: Clarence, born July 13, 1890, a teacher at Ipswich, South Dakota, high school, a graduate of the Red Wing Seminary in 1910 and from the St. Olaf's College in 1912; Agnes, born July 11, 1892, a graduate of St. Olaf's College in 1914, and now a teacher in the high school at Cooperstown, North Dakota; and Alice, born June 19, 1902, a student at the Red Wing high school.

Hans H. Mangseth, a venerable citizen of Camp township, was born in Norway, May 31, 1841, son of Hans Mangseth, who died in 1850 at the age of fifty, and of Guro Torkel, who died in 1871 at the age of sixty-five. Hans H. Mangseth came to America in 1868, and located at Racine, Wis. In 1873 he came to Camp township, and purchased from Jens Skarness 130 acres in section 21, where he still resides. He still lives in the house built on the place in 1871, a true relic of pioneer times. When he first came here he farmed with a pair of oxen. The county seat was at Beaver Falls. The trading point was at New Ulm. He now owns 260 acres of land, and his farm is well equipped with everything needed in carrying on general farming on an extensive scale. Mr. Mangseth has been town treasurer and school treasurer and has served in other positions of trust and responsibility.

Hans H. Mangseth was first married May 7, 1874, to Inga Skarness, daughter of Jens and Marie (Gulbrand) Skarness. She died in 1879, leaving two children, Guring, born April 21, 1875, now Mrs. Ole Korsmo, of Bandon township, and Henry, now of Minneapolis.

Hans H. Mangseth was married the second time to Indiana Skarness, a sister of his first wife, and to this union three children have been born: John, born March 1, 1888, is on the home farm;

Mathilda, born April 6, 1892, is now Mrs. Elmer Erickson, of Minneapolis; Helen, born Sept. 22, 1896, lives at home. The family church is the Norwegian Lutheran.

Jens Skarness and family came to America in 1869 and, in 1871, bought 140 acres in section 21, Camp township, which, in 1873, he sold to Hans H. Mangseth, with whom he lived until his death in 1904, at the age of seventy-two. Mrs. Skarness died in 1907 at the age of seventy.

Gilbert Olson was born in Norway Sept. 11, 1835, son of Ole Christenson and Kersti (Isaacson), both natives of Norway. Gilbert Olson grew to manhood in Norway, receiving his education there and came to America in 1869, locating in Milwaukee, where he remained for two months. Then he went to St. Paul, where he lived five months, and next came to Camp township, where he took a preemption claim of 160 acres in section 25. It was all wild land. He built a log house and straw barns, and engaged in farming. Later he built a good substantial house. He suffered all the hardships incident to pioneer life. March 21, 1905, he rented his farm and moved to Fairfax, where he purchased a home, and has resided there ever since. He was married May 29, 1872, to Helen Arneson, born in Norway, Sept. 9, 1845, daughter of Arne Helgeson and Bertha Magnuson, natives of Norway, who lived and died there. Mrs. Olson came to America in 1866 and located at Beaver Creek, Wis., where she lived for two years and then removed to Camp township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have had five children: Annie, born April 8, 1873, now Mrs. Peter Carlson, of Red Lake Reservation, Polk county, who has two children, Carl and Arthur; Clara, born Nov. 19, 1874, who keeps house for her brother, a farmer; Ella, born Jan. 10, 1876, now Mrs. Henry Mangseth, of Minneapolis, who has three children, Etherl, Hilmar and Inga; Amanda, born Sept. 3, 1879, now Mrs. Henry Anderson, of Minneapolis, who has three children, Gerhard, Carl and Ardes; and George, born July 2, 1885, who conducts the home farm in Camp township. The family are members of the United Norwegian Lutheran church.

Louis Zinne, a prominent farmer of Beaver Falls township, was born in Germany, July 27, 1859, son of Frederiek and Charlotte (Meyer) Zinne. His father came to America in 1869 and secured 160 acres in section 12, Beaver Falls township, where he remained until his death, in 1888. His mother died in 1907, at the age of seventy-three. Louis Zinne remained on the home farm until his marriage. He rented the home place for five years, then he bought 160 acres in section 12, southeast quarter of Beaver Falls township, in 1888. He now owns 426 acres, one of the other farms being in section 31, Norfolk, and one in Beaver Falls. He has improved his farms and erected good buildings. Mr. Zinne has been a stockholder in the Morton State Bank for

several years and is a stockholder and president of the Morton Rural Telephone Company. He is a director in the Flora township Mutual Fire Insurance Co. He has been clerk of school district No. 135, for fourteen years, and has served as township treasurer for seventeen years and been a member of the township board for the past three years. He is a member of the German Lutheran church in Morton, and has been a trustee and treasurer of the church since its organization in 1889. Mr. Zinne was united in marriage June 1, 1883, to Bertha Schmidt, who was born Feb. 9, 1862. Her father, Christian Schmidt, was a farmer in Winfield township and died in 1889, at the age of eighty-six. Her mother, Wilhelmina (Keuhn) died in 1877, at the age of forty-eight. Mr. and Mrs. Zinne have had nine children: Anna, born April 12, 1884; now married to Albert Kline, a truck farmer, near Olivia; George, born March 10, 1886, who is at home and has followed the threshing business for many years; Louis H., born Feb. 20, 1888, a farmer of Beaver Falls township, who married Minnie Ewert, a school teacher, and has one child, Carl; William, born Dec. 23, 1889, and died Sept. 18, 1902; Luey, born June 23, 1892, who is at home; Meta, born Jan. 23, 1895, and died June 27, 1913; Wilhelmina, born April 12, 1897, and died April 9, 1898; Ernest, born May 9, 1899, and Arthur, born Nov. 3, 1902, who are at home.

Ole E. Berge was born in Hardanger, in the bishopric of South Bergen, Feb. 9, 1826, where he secured a fair common school education, and grew to manhood. He learned the blacksmith trade and became a master in the manufacture of edge tools. At the age of twenty-six he married Cecelia Hanson in Granvin of Hardanger parish. In 1854 he immigrated with his family to the United States, coming on the "Condor" and landed at Quebec. From thence he came by steamboat and rail to Chicago and then moved to Stoughton, Wis. After he had found a home for his family he engaged in farm work among the farmers of Dane county. During the latter part of 1855 he secured work with the Mandt Wagon Manufacturing Company of Stoughton. In the spring of 1856 he and a few relatives concluded to move with their families to New Centerville, St. Croix county, Wis., where he purchased 60 acres of land and also started a blacksmith shop. He remained there two years. During that time his crops were killed by frost and times were hard. In the spring of 1859 he sold his little farm and immigrated to Trempeleau county, Wis., locating in Beaver Creek valley, or the township of Ettrick, where he took up a pre-emption claim of forty acres of government land, later securing eighty acres adjoining. In connection with his farming he also carried on the blacksmith work and times began to look brighter. In 1869 he sold his farm in Ettrick, Wis., and moved west to Ft. Ridgely, purchasing 160

acres in Camp township, Renville county, Minn., where he engaged in farming and stockraising. He died June 7, 1891. Mrs. Berge is still living and enjoying good health despite her old age of eighty-eight years and now makes her home with her youngest daughter, Mrs. P. J. Berg, of Madison, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Berge had six children: Nels O., who is engaged in general farming and stockraising near Fairfax, Minn.; Elling O., who is in the milling business at Madison, Lac qui Parle county, Minn., and also conducts a farm of over 1,900 acres; Hans O., who is engaged in hardware, harness, wood and coal business at Madison and also at Marietta, Lac qui Parle county, Minn.; Louis Cornelius, who died when two and a half years old; Mrs. M. O. Hagestad, of Fairfax, and Mrs. P. J. Berg of Madison, Minn.

Nels O. Berge, one of the pioneers of Renville county, was born in Norway, June 15, 1851, son of Ole E. and Cecelia (Hanson) Berge. Nels O. Berge came to Renville county in the spring of 1868 and took up land but returned to Trempealeau county, Wis., in the fall and returned to Renville county in the spring of 1869 when he squatted on the northeast quarter section of 23, Camp township, which he secured by pre-emption in 1873. The land which he took in 1868 was deeded to his father and consisted of 120 acres in sections 23, and 40 acres in section 22. Nels O. Berge had many and varied experiences in those early days. When he first located on the claim, he had a yoke of oxen, a wagon and a breaking plow. His first habitation thereon was a log house, 12 by 14 feet. He cut hay with a scythe and cradled his wheat by hand. He was out in the storm of Jan. 7, 1873, and suffered severely. As time passed, prosperity came to him and he owns 334 acres of good land, and the whole farm bespeaks the thrift, energy and intelligence of the owner. He carries on general farming and raises Duroc Jersey swine. Two acres of his land are set out in fruit trees. Mr. Berge makes a specialty of breeding Percheron horses and Shorthorn cattle. He owns two lots and two buildings in the city of Fairfax. For fourteen years he was postmaster of Camp, the office being in his own house. He has been justice of the peace for over thirty years, school clerk eighteen years, and township assessor four years. He also served in other positions of public trust and private honor.

Mr. Berge was married May 29, 1869, to Caroline Hagestad, who was born May 24, 1843, daughter of Ole O. and Martina Hagestad. Mr. and Mrs. Berge have had six children: Minnie, born Feb. 23, 1870, was the wife of E. J. Berg, a ranchman of Washington, and died Sept. 25, 1895; Clara, born Nov. 20, 1871, now lives at home; Otelia, born Jan. 31, 1874, married N. H. Samuelson, of Minneapolis; Edward, born March 13, 1877, died June 26, 1905; Fred, born July 4, 1879, and Ole, born March 8, 1884, are at home.



NELS O. BERGE AND FAMILY



Gustav A. Boemmels, a well-to-do farmer in Cairo township, was born July 27, 1879, in the township where he still resides. His father Gotthard Boemmels, died in 1904 at the age of 64, and his mother, Emma (Sell), died in 1914, at the age of 63. His parents owned a farm in section 36, Cairo township, which they bought in 1871. They were married in 1871 and had seven children, William, Edward (killed in a train wreck in 1909), Ernest, Gustav, Adolph, Lydia and Rhudy.

In 1907 Gustav A. Boemmels purchased the home place. He carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of Duroc-Jersey hogs and Hereford and Holstein cattle. He has a barn 50 by 50, with room for fourteen horses and thirty-five cattle, and forty tons of hay. He has also a large hog barn 36 by 50, with concrete foundation with room for 150 hogs. The granary is 28 by 30 and has an elevator holding 4,000 bushels of grain. The chicken house is 16 by 43. The house is a large two story building, 18 by 34, with an ell, 18 by 26, with a basement under the main part ready to equip with steam heat. The farm is thoroughly tiled, four and a half ears of tile having been used at an expenditure of over \$1,000. There are 340 acres of land of which 160 are in section 25. The land is all level, slightly rolling prairie land, the buildings being on the west side of the farm in a nice grove. Both Mr. and Mrs. Boemmels have attended the St. Paul Park College for two years, and Mrs. Boemmels graduated from the Music department in the spring of 1907. Mr. Boemmels has been the township treasurer for four years. Mr. Boemmels was married June 14, 1911, to Verna Bothe, daughter of Henry Bothe, aged 58, a farmer living near St. Paul Park, and Louisa (Bang) aged 49. They have one son, Cyrus, born December 5, 1912, and one daughter, Murlies, born March 26, 1915.

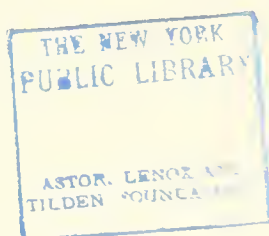
Martin D. Brown, postmaster of Fairfax, was born in Bullitt county, Kentucky, Jan. 7, 1857, second of the eight children of Michael and Katherine (Welsh) Brown. His parents were farmers, the father died in 1907 at the age of eighty years, and the mother in 1884 at the age of fifty years. Martin D. Brown attended the Taylorsville High school and St. Joseph's College at Bardstown, Kentucky, coming to Minnesota in 1879 and teaching country school in Renville county for three years. In 1882 he engaged in the real estate and insurance business at Fairfax and has continued in that business ever since. His wife's father, John Welsh, owned the farm on which Fairfax is now located and Mr. Brown bought 120 acres in section 5, Cairo township, which he platted into lots and called Brown's Addition to Fairfax. A part of these lots were sold and are now a part of the village. Mr. Brown has held several important positions in Fairfax, having been the justice of peace since 1890, village assessor

for ten years and clerk of the school board for sixteen years. He was postmaster from 1894 to 1898 and on March 13, 1915, was again appointed to the position by President Woodrow Wilson.

Sept. 2, 1891, Mr. Brown was married to Bridget Welsh, daughter of John Welsh and Mary (Burke) Welsh. They have no children, but have raised the daughter of Mr. Brown's dead brother, Kathy L. Brown. She is now married to Ben. S. Kanfer, living in Sherman, near Los Angeles, California. Mr. Brown's wife was born Feb. 2, 1852. Her father, John Welsh, died in 1896 at the age of 84 years and her mother died in 1910 at the age of 70 years.

John Swendby, deceased, was born in Norway and died in Renville county in 1886 at the age of forty-five years. He came to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and from there moved to Renville county where he located in section 34 of Crooks township, where his widow, Mrs. Simon Hanson, now lives. He secured 80 acres of wild prairie land and built a small frame house 14 by 16 feet. Here he and his wife moved after their marriage in 1878. He used a team of horses to clear up the land and began improving his farm. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. His wife, Mina, was born in Norway Oct. 24, 1859, daughter of Hans Gunderson and Anna (Jacobsen) Gunderson, who had eight children: Gunder, Martha, Johan, Mina, Hannah, Helena, Anna, and Hogan (deceased). Of these Mina, Johan, and Helena came to America in 1879, coming to Minnesota and settled in Renville county. Mr. and Mrs. Swendby had three children: Anna, Oscar and John. Anna is now Mrs. Guren Kurnes of Crooks township and has five children, Alfred, Martin, Theodore, Gudrun and Inez. Oscar lives in Cavalier county, North Dakota, and married Mary Nelson. They have two children, Morris and Joel. John also lives in Cavalier county and married Anna Idlen. They have one child, Myrtle.

Simon Hanson, deceased, was born in Norway, March 10, 1852, son of Hans Stromenson and Randi Hanson, who came to America with their two sons Ole and Simon, in 1867, coming by sailing vessel. The father Hans took a homestead in section 34, Crooks township, Renville county, where he secured 80 acres of wild prairie land. Here he built a log cabin which is still standing and which was the first in that section. Many of the early gatherings were held in this cabin. He had no money and worked out among the other farmers to earn enough to buy an ox team with which to begin improving his land. He bought 40 acres more and here he and his wife lived for the rest of their days. He died June 6, 1893, at the age of sixty-seven years and his wife died July 9, 1889, at the age of seventy-seven years. They were active members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and helped organize the church in that section of the county.





BRYNGEL ANDERSON AND FAMILY

Simon Hanson was married to Mrs. John Swendby, November, 1888, and located in Day county, South Dakota, on a homestead of 160 acres. They remained here for nine and a half years and then moved back to Renville county, locating in Crooks township, on section 34, on the homestead of Mrs. Hanson's first husband, John Swendby. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hanson: Henry, Randi, Sena, Anton, Gena and Harry. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Hanson died May 6, 1903.

Bryngel Anderson was born in Sweden, the son of Anders Nero Bryngelson, a Swedish farmer who had the distinction of having served in the Swedish army. Aside from Bryngel there were two sisters in the family, Catherine and Mary. Bryngel Anderson grew to manhood in Sweden, became a tenant farmer and was married in 1864 to Lisa Olson, born July 13, 1838, daughter of Ole O. and Stena (Johnson) Olson. In the Olson family there were five children: Johan; Anna M., now Mrs. Gustave Chilstrom, of Ogden, Utah; Erick; Anders, and Lisa. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were blessed with seven children, all born in Sweden: Olof, John, Elizabeth (deceased), Carl (deceased); Anna, at home; Gustave who married Laura Hergren, has one child and lives in Mora, Kanabec county; and Tillie, who married Anton Holmar, has two children, and lives in Minneapolis. Bryngel Anderson and other members of the family came to the United States in 1893. He died in Crooks township, Jan. 16, 1904, at the age of seventy-nine years. His widow makes her home with her sons Olof and John.

Olof and John Bryngelson, successful farmers of Crooks township, were born in Sweden, Olof, Aug. 17, 1865, and John, Jan. 14, 1868, sons of Bryngel and Lisa (Olson) Anderson. Of the family, Olof was the first to start for the United States, coming in 1886, and locating in Sibley county, this state, where he began working on farms. He earned enough to pay back the money loaned for his fare to America and then sent money to his brother John so that he could come. John came in 1888 and in 1893 all the rest of the family came except Elizabeth, who came in 1903. Olof and John formed a partnership and rented land. In 1893 they moved onto 160 acres of wild land in section 15, Crooks township, which had been purchased in 1889. At once they set about improving and developing the farm and it soon became one of the best in the neighborhood. In 1896 they built a barn and in the spring of 1897 a house, 16 by 16 feet and 12 feet high. The entire family moved into this house. It has since been remodeled and is now a modern eight-room home. The brothers also began planting fruit trees and set out a windbreak. They now carry on general farming and raise a good grade of stock, and have

enlarged their farm, until now it contains 320 acres. Olof owns 240 acres and John eighty acres.

John Bryngelson has been road overseer a few years and is the treasurer of School District No. 119. He has been a member of the board of directors of the Clover Line Farmers' Telephone Company. Olof Bryngelson is a member of the Renville Farmers' Elevator Company. The brothers are members of the Swedish Lutheran church and helped to establish the church built in 1897, known as the Freedsburg church. They both hold office in the church Olof being a trustee and John a deacon. Their sister Anna and their mother make their home with them.

Louis C. Shanahan was born Feb. 28, 1876, in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, son of John and Johanna (Kelley) Shanahan. His parents were of Irish ancestry, and the family were pioneers of Blue Earth county. Louis C. attended the district school and later became a farmer. Coming to Renville county in June, 1901, he bought his present farm in Crooks township in section 23 of 160 acres, locating on the same in spring of 1902. It was partly improved and here he began farming and has now one of the best improved farms in Renville county. Mr. Shanahan is also a stock raiser besides raising all kinds of grain, such as corn, oats, wheat and barley, and is a most successful farmer in every way. Mr. Shanahan was united in marriage to Emma Taylor, Sept. 17, 1902, daughter of Solomon and Elizabeth (Williams) Taylor. She was born in Mankato, Minn., Dec. 29, 1879. Solomon Taylor was born in Massachusetts, son of William Taylor and was of English ancestry. His wife was born in Oak Hill, Ohio, daughter of Hon. Evan Williams, a native of Wales. They were married in Minnesota and were pioneers of Mankato. Mr. Taylor served in the army during the Sioux uprising. Mr. and Mrs. Shanahan have had two children, a boy, Adrian Williard, born June 22, 1913, and one child who died in infancy.

Henry Haen, a prosperous farmer of Crooks township, was born in Sheboygan county, Wis., June 18, 1856, son of John Henry and Barbara (Reise) Haen. He received his early education in the district schools of Lima and Wilson townships in his native state, and later attended the St. Francis Academy at Milwaukee, where he took up a short course of studies. He remained at home on the farm until he married and then he moved to Minnesota to look for a new home. He came to Renville county in 1887 and located in Emmet township in section 1, where he secured a tract of 200 acres, all wild prairie land with no improvements. Here he built a small frame house and remained on this place until 1896 when he became the manager of the Farmers' Elevator of Renville, renting his farm. It was then greatly improved and in a fair state of cultivation. He was one of the first stockholders of this organization which was established in 1890 and

served for six years on the board of directors before becoming its manager. While manager of the elevator he purchased his present farm in Crooks township, section 31, a tract of 376 acres, and in section 32 a tract of 200 acres, which lies across the road from the rest of his farm. Here he moved on leaving the managership of the elevator. This farm was partly improved when he moved upon it and he has developed and put it into a fine condition. He was one of the first to enter the sugar beet industry in this section. He raises the best grade of stock and has a nice orchard. Mr. Haen is at present the president of the Farmers' Elevator Company of Renville. He has served on the Crooks township board ever since moving here and is at present the chairman of the board. He was also a member of the Emmet township board for a number of years. He is a member of the Catholic church and helped organize the Church of the Holy Redeemer of Renville. Mr. Haen was united in marriage Jan. 27, 1884, in St. George's parish, Wilson township, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, to Anna Wildgrube, born in Sheboygan county, July 31, 1860, daughter of Eidman and Christiana (Wachmuth) Wildgrube, both natives of Germany, where they were married and located in Sheboygan county in about 1851. They are now both deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Haen have twelve children: Anna, Clara, Henry and Rosa (twins), Frank, Margaret, William, Joseph, Mary, Georgia, Leonard and Jerome. Anna was married to Jesse Smith and lives at Mandador, North Dakota. Their daughter, Lela Clara, a former teacher, married to Joseph R. Dvorsha and they live at Mandador, North Dakota. They have three children: Loraine, Erma and Arline.

John Henry Haen, a Wisconsin pioneer, was born in Prussia, Germany, his parents being farmers and tavern keepers.

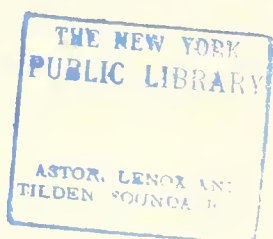
John Henry and his brothers, Peter and Matthew, came to America in 1848 in a sailing vessel. It was a three-master and during a severe storm two of the masts were lost, the passengers finally landing at New York after ninety days on the water. These brothers made their way to Wisconsin and here worked out on the farms. John H. finally bought a tract of 80 acres in Lima township, Sheboygan county, all heavy timber land. Here he built a log house and began to clear the farm using an ox team. He and his family lived about twenty years on this place and made many improvements. They also operated a tavern four miles south of Sheboygan where they also had a farm. They made their home in Wisconsin through life. He was a member of the Catholic church and helped start the first church which was built of logs and was known as the St. George's Congregation, located on the township line of Wilson across the road from Lima township. He was for a number of years a township officer.

Three or four years after he came to Wisconsin he married

Barbara Reise. His wife had come from Bavaria, Germany, with her parents and settled in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin. He died in July, 1904, but his wife is still living at the age of eighty-four years. They had eleven children: Adeline (deceased), Mary, Henry, Dorethea, Sophia, Johanna, Emma, John, Frank, William and Rosa.

James C. Fullerton, one of the early settlers of Renville county, was born Aug. 8, 1859, in Fillmore county. His father, James T., was born November 3, 1822, near St. Louis and moved to Renville county in 1871, where, wishing to engage in farming, he bought 200 acres in section 16, Cairo township. He died October, 1908. The mother, Mrs. Mary (Van Buren) Fullerton, born in England, died in 1892 at the age of seventy. James T. Fullerton was one of the soldiers of the Civil war and was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. He enlisted with Company K., Fourth Minnesota, in 1863, and served nine months. James C. Fullerton left home at the age of twenty-two and worked out for three years. He learned the bottler's trade with Samuel Stone at Jordan, Minnesota, and started the firm of Stone & Fullerton in 1884 on his father's farm in Cairo township, keeping this in operation for two years. Then he moved to Fairfax and opened a bottling factory under the name of J. C. Fullerton, and supplied bottled goods to territory adjoining Fairfax within a radius of seventy-five miles. Mr. Fullerton is greatly interested in matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the village. He has been a member of the village council for ten years and has served on the school board for seven years. He owns several farms and is a stockholder in both the Farmers' Elevators in Fairfax. He is also a member of the State Fire Department. October 6, 1887, Mr. Fullerton was married to Dora Voght, who was born Dec. 17, 1869, in Illinois. Her parents were Christian Voght a farmer on section 16, in Cairo township, who came to this county in 1870 and died in 1903 at the age of seventy-two, and Margaret (Vollertsen) Voght, who is still living in Fairfax. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Fullerton have eleven children, Harry, born Jan. 6, 1889; Steve J., born Dec. 13, 1890; Edith, born Dec. 24, 1892, who is now a teacher in Renville county; Harvey, born Sept. 2, 1894; Clara, born May 9, 1896, also a teacher in Renville county; Carrie, born Dec. 20, 1898; Floyd, born Feb. 21, 1901; Roy, born Jan. 22, 1903; Ethel, born August 19, 1904; Mildred Eva, born Sept. 19, 1908, died Nov. 17, 1908; Leora, born Dec. 5, 1909.

Daniel Herring was born in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, Oct. 21, 1832, and died Nov. 20, 1865. He married in 1849 Nancy Jane Dunbar, born July 5, 1832, in Clarion county, Penn. They drove by ox team from Pennsylvania with their two children, George and Sophia, coming in company with others who intended to





MELVIN L. HERRING AND FAMILY

settle in Minnesota. They located on a farm close to Caledonia, in Houston county, where a cabin was built and a clearing started. At this time the Sioux Indians became hostile and Mr. Herring enlisted in the Tenth Minnesota Vol. Inf. He accompanied the Sibley expedition against the Indians and was present when the thirty-eight Sioux were hanged at Mankato. Later he was sent south and served throughout the Civil war until he received his honorable discharge in 1865. He died in 1865 in Houston county. In the fall of 1866 his widow and children moved to Faribault county and took a widow's homestead of 80 acres in Laura township, section 14. It was all wild prairie land. The lumber for the house was hauled from Waseca, forty miles away, and the family lived in the wagon until it was completed. Daniel Herring's father had come with the family. The widow managed the farm and here the children grew up. She died Feb. 18, 1893. She was a member of the Free Methodist church. Six children had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Herring: George, born Dec. 10, 1849; Sophia, born April 8, 1852; Henry J., born August 8, 1854; Joseph M., born March 16, 1857; Daniel W., born Sept. 28, 1859; and Melvin, born Sept. 2, 1862.

Melvin L. Herring was born in Houston county, Minn., Sept. 2, 1861, son of Daniel W. and Nancy J. (Dunbar) Herring. He was educated in Faribault county, attending the country school held in a frame building located on his mother's farm. On the home farm he grew to manhood, his mother making her home with him as long as she lived. In 1897 he moved to Brown county where he lived until 1900 when he moved to Crooks township, Renville county, and located on 320 acres in section 28. He has made extensive improvements on this farm and built good buildings, barns and sheds, and carries on general farming. He raises full-blooded cattle, specializing in Shorthorn cattle. He has also some fine fruit trees. He is a member of the Farmers' Elevator of Renville. He is treasurer of his school district and he was also a member of the school board when in Brown county. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church. Sept. 2, 1891, Mr. Herring was married to Effie Rosetta Baker, born in Faribault county, Feb. 2, 1866, daughter of Abijah and Laura (Waite) Baker. Mrs. Baker was born in the state of Vermont, Washington county, town of Waren. Mr. Baker was born in the state of New York, Steuben county. They were married in the east and drove to Fillmore county in 1855, locating there for a time and then coming to Faribault county in 1863 where they secured a homestead and lived the remainder of their life. Mr. and Mrs. Herring have seven children: Raymond M., Ethel G., Esther C., Guy C., Ruth M., Hazel A., Paul M., all living at home.

Wilhelm Looock, deceased, was born in Pomerania, Germany. July 28, 1839. He learned the trade of a tailor in Germany and

after his marriage to Mary Ohm, daughter of Joachim Ohm, he and his family and also his wife's father set out for America in 1864, coming by sailing vessel, the voyage taking three months. He came to Dodge county, Wisconsin, and located at Watertown, where he engaged in his trade as tailor. After a time he bought a farm in the township of Libbenon, Dodge county. In 1887 he came to Renville county locating in Crooks township in section 35 on a tract of 160 acres which he purchased. It was all wild prairie land. He built a granary and here the family lived until a house could be built. This house has since been remodeled by his son William who now owns the place. He had six horses to start with but no other stock. He gradually increased his farm until he owned a whole section. Mr. Looek was an active member of the German Lutheran church and held the office of trustee for several years. He helped establish the church in Renville. His wife died July 16, 1915, at the age of seventy-four. Mr. Looek died Dec. 16, 1911, at the age of seventy-two years. The following children were born to these parents: Emil, Anna, Julius, John, Emma, Louisa, William A., Rosetta, Mary and Carl.

William A. Looek was born Jan. 23, 1875, and received his early education in Wisconsin, being twelve years of age when the family came to Crooks township. As he grew to manhood he took charge of the old home tract farm of 240 acres. He remodeled the house and built a new barn 40 by 60 feet with a basement. He raises a good grade of stock, and also some fruit. He is a members of the Farmers' Elevator Company of Danube. He has also held several township offices, having been a member of the school board and township supervisor for twelve years. Mr. Looek was married in 1899 to Louisa Bade, born in Waseca county, daughter of Frederick and Josephine (Wickworth) Bade, both natives of Germany. Her father was brought to this country when an infant and his parents settled in Wisconsin. He was born in Germany Oct. 24, 1858, and his wife was born Dec. 13, 1861. They had four children, Mr. and Mrs. Looek have five children: Regina, Anthony, Gerald, Adelheid and one child who died in infancy.

Herman Lindeman, for many years a resident of Renville county and later of Redwood county, was born in Le Sueur county, this state, Nov. 26, 1862, and came to Renville county with his parents in 1868, locating in Beaver Falls township. In 1885 he purchased a farm in Henryville township, and to the original 160 acres added until he owned 320 acres. In 1892 he moved to North Redwood, as agent for Nelson Tenny & Co. Later he became interested in the lumber and grain business at Danube. He died Aug. 1, 1901. His widow later returned to North Redwood, where she owns a pleasant home which she built in 1904.

Mr. Lindeman was married March 19, 1885, to Martha Shoemaker, who was born May 18, 1863. They had eight children: Otto, Esther, Ella, August, Arthur, Paul, Dewey and Minnie. Otto was born March 11, 1886, and now lives in New Avon township, Redwood county. He married Julia Ash. Esther was born June 15, 1888, and married Louis Garttner, a baker of Pueblo, Colorado. Ella was born Sept. 27, 1889, and is now principal of the Olivia High school. August was born April 26, 1890, and lives in Danube, this county. Arthur was born Sept. 29, 1893, and is now a student in the University of Minnesota. Paul, born Jan. 28, 1895; Dewey, born June 26, 1897, and Minnie, born Dec. 1, 1900, are at home. The family faith is that of the Evangelical Association.

Leo Claude Vader, a well-known Civil Engineer of Olivia, was born Dec. 13, 1881, in Scranton, Iowa, the son of John Wesley and Cynthia (Clopton) Vader. He received his early education in the schools of his locality and later graduated from the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, having taken a course in civil engineering. He had seven years' experience in drainage work in Iowa, both as contractor and engineer. In the fall of 1913, he was appointed as assistant drainage engineer by the United States Department of Agriculture, but did not report for duty, after considering the unsanitary conditions of drainage engineering work in the South Atlantic States, where they expected to send him. In February, 1915, he located in Olivia, having been engaged in county drainage engineering work in Renville county since that time. Mr. Vader was married August 16, 1911, to Lizzie Harmon, born Sept. 9, 1882, in Tama, Iowa, daughter of Alpheus B. and Lillie (Jacobs) Harmon.

John Wesley Vader was born in Illinois in 1859 and is now living in Iowa. He is a Republican in politics and took active interest in the affairs of that party, being county recorder of Greene county Iowa, for two terms. In 1879 he was married to Cynthia Clopton, born Jan. 29, 1856, in Jefferson, Iowa, the wedding taking place at that place. Five children were born to this union: Leo Claude; John, a farmer in Iowa; Clara B., now Mrs. M. A. Cox, of Iowa; Asenath and Adelbert, who are at home.

Louis A. Matzdorf, hardware dealer, of Olivia, was born June 20, 1870, in Newton township, Marquette county, Wis., the son of William J. and Augusta (Kluens) Matzdorf. In 1888 he purchased 120 acres in the southeast quarter of section 19, and 160 acres in the northwest quarter of section 18, Preston Lake township, where he remained until 1904, when he entered the hardware business at Buffalo Lake. Five years later he sold this business and removed to Olivia in 1909, working in Heins & Byers hardware store three years. In 1912 he purchased an interest in the Olivia Hardware Company and is now devoting his

time to this business. He was village treasurer of Buffalo Lake four years and constable six years. On Sept. 3, 1896, Mr. Matzdorf was married to Mrs. Mary A. (Wallner) Brigger, born Nov. 15, 1871, at Minnesota Lake, Faribault county, the daughter of John and Anna (Tutz) Wallner. They have two children: Esther, born April 20, 1897; Irene, born Aug. 26, 1903. John Wallner was born in Austria, came to this country and died Nov. 11, 1896, at the age of 54 years. He married Anna Tutz, who is now 70 years old. She lives at Buffalo Lake.

William J. Matzdorf, born in Germany, Dec. 25, 1826, came to America in 1848, settling in Wisconsin, where he bought eighty acres. He married Augusta Kluens, born in Germany, Sept. 11, 1831, the ceremony being performed in 1860. Mrs. Matzdorf came to America in 1855 with two brothers and is now living in Buffalo Lake at the ripe old age of 84 years. In 1861 Mr. Matzdorf enlisted in the Thirty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, from which he received an honorable discharge after serving four years and nine months. In 1872 he settled at Howard Lake, Wright county, Minn., where he bought 80 acres of land, remaining there until 1874, when he went to Preston Lake township, Renville county, where he homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 20, on which he remained until his death Dec. 23, 1910, at the age of 84 years.

John W. Wordes was born in Holland Jan. 15, 1820, and was there reared. In 1847, both his parents being dead, he boarded a sailing vessel for America, landing in the new world after a long and tiresome voyage of seventy-two days. At Albany, New York, May 19, 1849, he was married to Johanna Bloomers, who was born in Holland July 20, 1827, daughter of Gerrit W. and Johanna Bloomers, who brought her, and the other five children in the family, Grace, Tobias, Gerrit, Cynthia and Jane, to America on the same sailing vessel that her husband came on. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Wordes lived for some two years on a farm near Albany, N. Y. There their home burned, entailing a heavy loss. But they had enough money to buy from the government at \$2 an acre forty acres of timberland in section 36, Lima township, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, to which tract they moved with their two children Jane and Sena. A large enough space was cleared to erect a cabin and in addition to developing this place, Mr. Wordes worked out among the farmers for about two years, to earn money with which to get a start on his farm. He cleared up the 40 acres and added more till he had 100 acres. In time he built a modern house. For a few years he served on the school board. He helped to organize the Baptist church in Lima township and was one of its officers, the early services of that denomination being held in his cabin. One of the many happy events in the life of Mr. and Mrs. Wordes was the cele-

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bration of their golden wedding anniversary, May 19, 1899. They were the parents of nine children: Jane, born March 1, 1850, and died at the age of twelve years; Sena, born April 26, 1852; Henry W., born Jan. 31, 1855; Johanna, born April 18, 1857, and died Nov. 8, 1888; John, born Nov. 6, 1861; Lena, born Oct. 31, 1863; Jennie, born Sept. 10, 1865; Minnie, born May 27, 1867, and died Sept. 1, 1913; and William, born March 31, 1873. John W. Wordes died Feb. 6, 1900. Mrs. Johanna (Bloomers) Wordes lives in Sheboygan county, Wis., with one of her daughters.

John George Wordes, a thrifty farmer of Crooks township, was born Nov. 6, 1861, in Linna township, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, son of John W. and Johanna (Bloomers) Wordes. He was reared on the home farm and attended a primitive school in a small frame building with home-made seats in district 11 in his native township. In 1887, he left his father's farm and came to Minnesota, locating on section 7, Crooks township, where he had the previous year obtained 160 acres of railroad land at \$9 an acre. On this wild prairie land he constructed a rude dugout and began farming with a team of oxen and a team of horses. He broke the land, gradually developed the place, in time erected suitable buildings, and added eighty acres more. Later, however, he sold this farm of 240 acres and moved to his present place in section 29, Crooks township, where he purchased 160 acres of partly improved land to which he has since added 160 acres more. This place he has brought to a high stage of cultivation. He has built a modern home and commodious barns and outbuildings, has installed numerous improvements, and has beautified the place with trees and shrubbery. He successfully carried on general farming, raises a good grade of stock and specializes in Holstein cattle. He also has attained good results in fruit culture. He is a prominent man in his township and carries on farming along the latest improved modern methods. Mr. Wordes has held the office of township clerk for twenty-six years and has been a member of the school board for twenty years. He is a director of the Farmers' Elevator Company of Renville. He is also a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church at Renville.

Mr. Wordes was united in marriage to Jane Christina Brummels, born in Holland, Nov. 15, 1867, daughter of John A. and Elizabeth (Ongena) Brummels. This family came to America in 1869, coming to Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, bringing with them their children, Jane and William. The father died about three years after they came to this country and the mother married Henry Steen. To this union were born the following children: Alzene (deceased), Elizabeth, Hattie and Mary. The mother died April 3, 1912, at the age of sixty-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. John Wordes have the following children: William Albert, born Feb. 4, 1888, is a farmer in section 27, Crooks town-

ship. He was married to Hattie L. Jacobs. George, born Jan. 14, 1890, is farming in Emmet township. He married Winnifred McBroom, and has two children Gordon E., born June 1, 1911, and Jane A., born April 29, 1913. Elizabeth J. was born Nov. 20, 1894; Arthur H., born May 16, 1897; Lester J., Oct. 17, 1901; and John T., born June 5, 1905.

Oliver T. Sunde, the efficient and popular sheriff of Renville county, was born in Albion township, Brown county, Minnesota, Dec. 23, 1879, son of Torkel T. and Ragnhild (Hyne) Sunde. He attended the district schools, completed his studies at the St. Anthony school and in early life learned the buttermaking trade at Grandburg, Wis. For a time he was at the Albion Creamery in Brown county, but in 1892 he came to Renville county and became manager of the Renville Creamery Company. He next interested himself in the hardware business at Renville, the firm being known as Sanders & Company. Five years later he sold his interests. In 1912 he was elected sheriff of Renville county and succeeded himself in 1914 for a four-year term. In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. of Olivia. Sheriff Sunde has made a most admirable officer and his methods have won the highest commendation. Affable and approachable to his friends, sympathetic with all who are in trouble, and a courageous, active and busy officer, his popularity grows continually. Mr. Sunde was married Feb. 23, 1904, to Laura Barber, of Yellow Medicine county, daughter of Thomas C. and Sarah Barber, early settlers of Echo, Yellow Medicine county. Mr. and Mrs. Sunde have one child, Myron, born Dec. 13, 1906.

Torkel Sunde, born March 1, 1837, and Ragnhild (Hyne) Sunde, born Sept. 1, 1845, parents of Sheriff O. T. Sunde, were natives of Norway, where they were married. They came to America with two children, Thora and Anna, in 1868, and settled in Albion township, Brown county, where they engaged in farming. Their nearest market was Mankato from which place the father carried home heavy flour sacks on his back. He endured all the hardships of the early pioneer and became a leading spirit in the community. He died Aug. 29, 1889, and his wife died Feb. 8, 1886. Their children were Thora, who died Jan. 3, 1915; Anna, who died in 1882, Oliver, Theodore, Alfred, Thalia, Clara, and Karn, who died at the age of four years.

Warren H. Heins, a well-known business man of Olivia, was born in Olivia May 2, 1885, the son of Peter W. and Margaret Patterson Heins. He graduated from the Olivia High school and in 1909 from Hamline university, at Hamline, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. The next year he spent at Columbia university in New York City, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Science. The next year, he assumed management of Heins & Byers hardware business, of which firm he was a member.

During this time he was also vice president of the Peoples' First National bank of Olivia. He was cashier of this bank during the year 1914. The next year he sold his holdings in this bank and purchased C. A. Heins' interest in the hardware business and in the two large farms owned by Heins & Byers. Mr. Heins also owns a hardware business and buildings in Renville. He and his brother C. A. Heins own a 560-acre farm just west of Olivia, where they specialize in Shorthorn cattle. In politics Mr. Heins is a Republican. His fraternal affiliation is with Olivia lodge, No. 220, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Heins was married Oct. 5, 1911, to Myrtle M. Prosser, a resident of Spring Valley, Minn., the daughter of L. Hobart Prosser and Emmeretta (Case) Prosser. They have one child, Hugh Prosser Heins, born Aug. 19, 1913. Both Mr. and Mrs. Heins are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

James Hurley, a pioneer resident of Bandon township, was born in Ireland in 1833. He came to America in 1841, settling in New York state. Twenty-five years later he came to Minnesota and settled at Rochester and in 1872 came to Renville county. He still owns his farm in Bandon but for several years past he has resided in Bird Island, where three of his sons reside.

Herman C. Becker, popular and successful Olivia druggist, was born in Montgomery, Minn., Aug. 27, 1874, son of Frank and Josephine (Richter) Becker. He became thoroughly familiar in the dispensing of drugs while employed by his brother in his native town, and at the age of twenty-three came to Olivia, and engaged in his present business. He carries a good stock of goods and is widely known for his honorable dealing. A Republican in politics, he did good service as a member of the village council of Olivia in 1905-06. His fraternal affiliations are with A. O. U. W. All in all, Mr. Becker is a useful citizen and has had an important part in the upbuilding of the village. On July 3, 1901, Mr. Becker married Blanche Rocek, of Olivia, born Feb. 20, 1875, in New Prague, Minn., the daughter of Anton and Katherine (Petriehka) Rocek. They have one child, Katherine, born in July, 1905, now attending school at Olivia.

Frank Becker, born in 1845 in Germany, came to America with his parents in 1852 and went to Chicago, leaving there in a short time for Montgomery, Minn., where he opened a general store which he conducted for thirty-five years, retiring in 1912. He is still living in the town where the best years of his life were spent. He was married at Montgomery, in 1866, to Josephine Richter who was born in Germany in 1844, and came to America at an early age with her parents who settled on a farm in Le Sueur county, this state. She died in 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Becker had four children, all living; William, druggist, of Montgomery; Herman, druggist, of Olivia; Frank, druggist of Parker, South

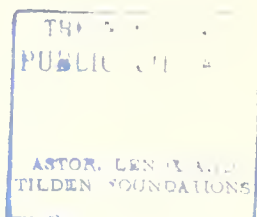
Dakota: Lena, now Mrs. Henry Perron, of Timber Lake South Dakota.

Anton Rocek married Katherine Petrichka at New Prague, Minn. Both were born in Bohemia and came to America when quite young. Mr. Rocek spent some years farming and moved to Olivia in 1895 where he engaged in business, retiring in 1905. Mrs. Rocek died in the same year that he ended his business career. There were five children: Fred, John and Bessie, of Olivia; Henry, who is dead; Blanche, the wife of Herman C. Becker.

John E. Dennstedt, a popular retired farmer of Olivia, was born in Germany in 1825. In 1847 he sailed for Canada, where he purchased land and lived until 1859 when he came to this country and settled in Fillmore county, Minn. There he bought 240 acres of land which he greatly improved. This property he sold in 1873, when he came to Renville county and bought 320 acres of raw land in Winfield township. This he improved, building barns and a six-room house. He added to his original holdings until he had 440 acres. He was a leading stock raiser and always possessed several fine mules. In 1908 he sold the farm and retired, moving to Olivia where he bought 32 acres on which he erected a fine nine-room house. Great improvements were made on the grounds and the place is now one of the finest in Olivia—in fact, it is in every sense of the word a little paradise. Mr. Dennstedt has always been very active and now at the age of 90 years is constantly busy around his home in which he and his wife take a keen interest. He is a Republican, but has never taken an active part in political work so far as the holding of office is concerned, although he has had many opportunities had he chosen to take advantage of them. Both he and his wife are members of the Evangelical church. Mr. Dennstedt has been twice married. His first wife he wedded in Canada. She was Minnie Krusb and bore six children: Charles, now living in Fillmore county; John, of Spring Valley, Minn.; George, of Norwood; Eliza, the wife of Henry Fehr, of Olivia; Caroline, now Mrs. Isaac Wickerman, of Fillmore county; Kate, the wife of Gottlieb Beck, of Olivia. Mrs. Minnie Dennstedt died in 1866 at Jasper, Pipestone county, Minn. Mr. Dennstedt married again on Oct. 14, 1868, his second wife being Johanna Kleimenhagen of Fillmore county. She was born in Germany, Feb. 8, 1847, and came to this country in 1866, her father, brothers and sisters coming later, her mother having died in Germany. She bore twelve children: William, who lives in North Dakota; Amelia, now Mrs. Ole Emmen, of Minneapolis; Otto, of Albert Lea; Henry (deceased); Henrietta, who is dead; Chester, of North Dakota; Martha, now Mrs. Arthur O. Hilster, of St. Paul; Sarah, the wife of J. McCorquodale, of Olivia; Adaline, now Mrs. Otto Gerde, of Minne-



JOHN DENNSTAEDT AND FAMILY



apolis; Albert, who lives at Albert Lea; Aaron, who lives in North Dakota; Lucile, who is teaching school at Minneapolis.

Louis P. Mahler, the popular jeweler of Olivia, was born March 5, 1876, at Le Sueur, Minn., son of Dedrich and Charlotte (Wagner) Mahler. He received his education in the schools of Le Sueur and at the age of sixteen began learning the business in which he later engaged for himself. When eighteen years of age he entered the employ of E. R. Smith, a jeweler of Le Sueur, with whom he remained for two years. Then he worked with T. G. Mahler for five years. In 1899 he came to Olivia and began the jewelry business in which he has been engaged ever since. His venture was a success from the start and from a small beginning he has progressed steadily toward a prosperous business until he now conducts one of the leading jewelry stores in the county, carrying a full line of good goods. In 1914 he remodeled his store. It is now equipped with mahogany-finished wall cases, shelves and showcases with French plate mirrors, and every facility for showing the stock to the best advantages. An artistic cut-glass room finished in mahogany facing with white enameled background, and heavy glass shelving with large mirrors in the sides and back, is found in the rear of the store for the display of the fine line of cut glass. He does all kinds of watch, clock and jewelry repairing and engraving, and is also a fine optician having a special department for this work. Mr. Mahler is a Republican in politics and is actively interested in the affairs of the community. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic and the I. O. O. F. lodges of Olivia and has held all the chairs of the latter lodge. June 6, 1906, Mr. Mahler was married to Anna McCorquodale, of Olivia, born Jan. 15, 1882, daughter of Augustus and Helen (Ross) McCorquodale.

Dedrich Mahler was born in Germany in 1841 and came to America in 1857, locating at Le Sueur, Minn., where he became very successful as a builder and contractor. He was revered and respected, and died in 1913, sincerely mourned. He was married in 1867 to Charlotte Wagner, born in 1847 at Cincinnati, Ohio, daughter of Jacob and Mary Wagner. She died April 16, 1892, at Le Sueur. There were ten children in the family: Henry, who represents one of New York's business houses in Minneapolis; Theodore, who conducts a jewelry business at Le Sueur; William, who is engaged in newspaper work in Springfield, Minn.; Louis, an Olivia jeweler; Emma, now Mrs. G. H. Probett, of St. Paul; Charles, of Paseo, Wash., who is in the lumber business; Ida, now Mrs. F. J. Linn, whose husband is associated with the Minneapolis Bedding Co.; Rollin, who is in the Jewelry business at Belle Plaine, Minn.; Laura, a Minneapolis milliner; and Oscar, of Pendleton, Oregon, who is in the lumber business.

William H. Cheney, for many years a prominent farmer of Beaver Falls township, was born in Attica, New York, Dec. 28, 1834, son of John and Analiza (Gray) Cheney. John Cheney was born in Vermont, in 1807, moved as a young man to New York state, and in 1842 located near Prospect, Wisconsin, where he lived on one place for more than sixty years. He devoted his life to farming but was also a financier to a considerable extent, loaning money to his neighbors to help develop their farms. He died in 1904 at the age of eighty-seven years. Analiza (Gray) Cheney was born in eastern New York state, in pioneer days, having first seen the light of day in 1809. She lived through many stirring scenes and witnessed many interesting sights, including the launching of the first steamboat on the Great Lakes, at Black Rock, now a part of Buffalo, New York. Her aunt, Mrs. Lovejoy, perished when Buffalo was burned in 1812. Analiza (Gray) Cheney died Dec. 28, 1842. In the family there were four children: Francis M., who died in 1907; Teressa C., who died in 1893; William H., the subject of this sketch; and Cynthia M., the widow of Henry W. Draper, of Warsaw, Minn. William H. Cheney attended the public schools of Prospect, Wis., and remained at home until twenty-one years of age, devoting his time for several years to buying grain and milling. In 1855 he came to Minnesota, located at Faribault, and farmed in Warsaw townships. During the war he was in the Quartermaster's department, engaged in detail work and carpentry. After the war he again took up farming in Warsaw township. In 1885 he came to Beaver Falls township, this county, and secured a farm of 592 acres bordering on the village of Beaver Falls. He improved and developed this place and built up a fine farm. Here he successfully carried on general farming until 1900, when he turned the place over to his son John and moved to Olivia, where he purchased five acres of land and erected a home. This home he still retains though he now lives at Boise, Idaho. While in the township he was a prominent citizen, and served on the township board as supervisor and as chairman. At one time he was vice president of the Farmers' State Bank of Sacred Heart, in which he is still a stockholder. In addition to his property in Olivia, he owns 72 acres in Beaver Falls township and 160 acres in Wright county.

Mr. Cheney was married Jan. 1, 1866, to Isabelle Wood, who bore him three children, Mattie, John and Cynthia. Mattie is now Mrs. F. B. Kinyon, of Boise, Idaho. She and her husband have an adopted daughter, Margaret. John operates the farm in Beaver Falls township. Cynthia died at the age of twenty-one. On May 16, 1887, Mr. Cheney married Margaret W. Clements, who died April 21, 1911.

Julius Heinecke, now retired and living at Olivia, was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Jan. 9, 1852, son of John Adolph



MR. AND MRS. JULIUS HEINICKE



Frederick and Anna Mary Sophia (Maury) Heinecke. Julius Heinecke remained at home until he was fourteen years of age, when he went to work for his board while attending school. When he was nineteen he began the wagon makers' trade at Benton, Carver county, Minn., where he remained one year. Leaving there he worked two years in the framing department of Thomas Chambers Art store at Minneapolis. The next three years were spent in the same line of work for James Brownell at St. Paul. In 1876 he entered a homestead claim of eighty acres and a tree claim of eighty acres on the southeast quarter of section 32, Preston Lake township, which he still owns together with the south half of the northwest quarter and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 32. He retired in 1910 and has lived in Olivia since. For four years he was township supervisor and for one year assessor. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' State Bank of Olivia. Mr. Heinecke was married Feb. 2, 1877, to Mary F. Robinson, born Dec. 15, 1857, in Iowa, daughter of Thomas L. and Sarah (Buxton) Robinson. Ten children were born: Ambrose Julius, born Oct. 20, 1878, of Byers, Colorado, married Mary Haugen of Lac qui Parle county, Minn., and has four children; Aurora, born April 25, 1880, married Charles Olson, a hardware merchant of Centuria, Wis., and has five children; Sophia Cora, born Dec. 31, 1881, was married to Jess Scheibel of Olivia, a hardware clerk; Annie Florence, born March 2, 1884, was married to Burgess E. Woody, of Los Angeles, California, and has two children; Cornelius Raymond, born Jan. 29, 1886, now of Grafton township, Sibley county, married Minnie Keitel; Roland C., born Dec. 30, 1887, of Olivia; Herbert Harrison, born Feb. 11, 1890, on his father's farm in Preston Lake, married Cora Harrier and has two children; Julian Wingred, born Oct. 31, 1892, now of Sioux City, Iowa; Percy Elwin, born Sept. 31, 1895, of Centuria, Wis., clerk in a hardware store; and Lula Viola, born Dec. 18, 1896, at home.

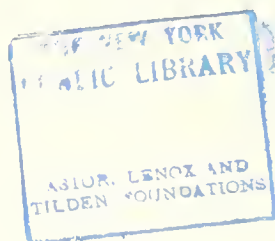
John Adolph Frederick Heinecke, born in Germany March 3, 1820, came to America in 1848 and spent a short time in Philadelphia, going from there to Harrisburg, Pa., where he spent five years in the tailoring trade. While there he made a suit of clothes for Alexander Ramsey, who later became governor of Minnesota, and who influenced him to move to Minnesota in 1855 and locate at St. Paul, as a tailor and clothier. In 1858 he took up land in Carver county where he remained until 1867 when he sold out his property. He then purchased eighty acres in Chaska township, where the Carver County Sugar factory now stands, moving from there in 1901 when he retired from farming and located in Preston Lake township, where he resided with his son, Julius, until his death in 1908. His wife was born Dec. 18, 1819, in Hanover, Germany, and died Easter Sunday, 1902.

Thomas L. B. Robinson, born in 1824, near Columbus, Ohio, was a cabinet maker and farmer. He came to Renville county in 1873, and died in 1884 at the age of sixty-three years. His wife, Sarah (Buxton) Robinson, was born in 1830 and died March, 1903, at the age of seventy-three years.

William Buethe, an extensive land owner now living in Olivia, was born in Hesse, Germany, March 10, 1848, son of Henry and Wilhelmina (Meier) Buethe, who came to America in 1861, located in Will county, Illinois, engaged in farming for many years, and afterward retired to Monee Station, where they both died. William Buethe attended the schools of his native land, came to America with his parents in 1861, and located with them on a farm in Will county, Illinois, where he likewise attended school and where he grew to manhood, and learned farming from his father. He remained home until 1873 and then came to Renville county where he purchased a farm of 160 acres in the town of Birch Cooley and farmed about four years, after which he removed to Winfield township and took a tree claim of 160 acres. He improved this claim, built up a fine farm, and added to the place from time to time until he owned 480 acres of the best land. In 1897 he rented his farm and moved to Olivia where he erected a splendid residence and where he is now, after a long and strenuous life filled with hard work and strenuous endeavor, spending the afternoon of life in the comfort which he so richly deserves. He still owns the 480 acre farm in Winfield township, and in addition to this has his five-acre tract in the village of Olivia, fourteen acres in Oregon, eighty acres in Wisconsin, and 220 acres in North Dakota. While in the township he was one of the most popular men in the community, and served on the township board for many years, was assessor thirteen years, and was treasurer or clerk of his school board at different times for many years. Since coming to the village he has served two years as assessor and eleven years as a member of the village council. He is a stockholder in the Olivia Canning Co. William Buethe was married in Will county, Illinois, Feb. 13, 1872, to Sophia Homeier, who was born in Hanover, Germany, June 23, 1853, daughter of Henry and Mary (Bergman) Homeier, natives of Germany who came to America in 1854, located in the town of Green Garden, Will county, Ill., and there engaged in farming until 1875, when they came to Renville county and located at Beaver Falls, in their latter days making their home with Mr. and Mrs. Buethe in Winfield township, where they died. Mr. and Mrs. Buethe have had eight children: William J., Henry, Minnie, August, Matilda, Rika, Ida, and George. William J. lives in Elesa, Minn., where he conducts a restaurant. He married Cora Smith and they have five children. Henry lives in Ruso, North Dakota, where he farms. He married Annie Doering, and they have eight children. Minnie

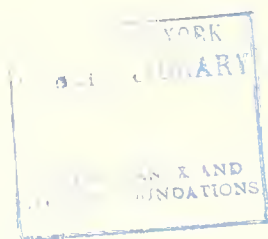


MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM BUETHE





JOHN MEHLHOUSE AND FAMILY



lives in Clara City, Minn. She married Emil Yock and they conduct a general store. They have three children. August is a merchant at Paynesville, Minn. He married Edna Feeder and they have three children. Matilda lives in Clara City, Minn. She married George Schulte, a hardware merchant, and they have three children. Rika lives in Sheboygan, Wis. She married Julius Bruhm, a druggist, and they have one child. Ida lives in Bird Island, this county. She married Albert Baarch, a real estate dealer, and they have one child. George is proprietor of the Olivia Bottling & Ice Cream Co., of Olivia, and lives at home. The family faith is that of the German Lutheran church.

Dennis O'Shea, one of Minnesota's heroes, was born Nov. 1, 1831, and died April 27, 1912. He is buried at Ft. Ridgely which he helped to defend. He served five years in Company L, Second United States Artillery, two years in the Seminole war in Florida, was with Marsh's command when it was ambushed at Redwood Ferry, Aug. 18, 1862, and had command of a piece of artillery during the siege and battles of Ft. Ridgely. Of him it has been said: "He lived up to his orders and was faithful to his commands." Before the Massacre he lived near Franklin, but he afterward lived near the fort which he had so nobly defended.

John Mehlhouse, one of the leading farmers of Renville county, now living in Olivia, was born in Lee county, Ill., Dec. 11, 1869, son of Justus and Mary (Kummel) Mehlhouse. He received a good education and learned farming from his father. In 1891 he purchased eighty acres of land of R. D. Cone in section 6, Norfolk township. This he still owns and values at \$100 per acre. In 1893 he bought eighty acres of Joe Single, this farm being well improved and valued at \$150 per acre, and is still in possession of it. In 1897 he moved onto this farm, always living at home until then. In 1902, together with his brother George, he purchased 120 acres, but soon sold his interests in the farm. In 1905 he purchased 160 acres in section 32 of Bird Island township for which he paid \$37.50 an acre. This proved an exceptionally good investment, as he sold eighty acres of it in 1914 at \$100 an acre. In 1907 he secured eighty acres from his brother George, for which he paid \$40 an acre, this being located in section 6, Norfolk township. Another 160 acres in this section was obtained in 1910, for which he paid \$44 an acre. Another eighty acres he secured from his father in the same section at \$55 per acre, which gave him a total of 440 acres in section 6, Norfolk township. He has made great improvements on this land and to this end has in his employ from three to six men. His home on the edge of Olivia is one of the prettiest places in town. The eight-room modern house is surrounded by an acre of well improved lawn and gardens. The farm lies four miles south of

Olivia. He also owns eighty acres in Bird Island township, a half interest in 200 acres in section 24, Kosmos township, Meeker county, Minn., 120 acres in Swift county and a half interest in 400 acres in Troy township, this county. For many years Mr. Mehlhouse has been one of the leading stockraisers in this county and has just completed one of the finest concrete barns in this part of the state. He specializes in Poland China hogs, Shorthorn cattle, Percheron horses and Shropshire sheep. For many years in the past he operated a threshing machine with his brother George, Will Demstedt and Frank Conrad. He is a director of the Peoples National Bank and a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator, both of Olivia. In politics Mr. Mehlhouse is a Republican and has served two years as town supervisor of Norfolk township, nine years as clerk of the school board of district No. 36, six years in the same capacity in district No. 137, and five years as road supervisor. Fraternally he is a member of the Olivia lodges I. O. O. F. and M. W. A. Mr. Mehlhouse was married Dec. 30, 1898, to Emma Krömer, born Sept. 20, 1869, at Lakeville, Minn., daughter of Fred and Barbara Kromer. This union resulted in three children, Inez and Irene, twins, born Sept. 16, 1899, and Lloyd, born Oct. 22, 1902. The family faith is that of the German Evangelical church.

Fred Kromer, a native of Germany, came to America when quite young and settled in Peru, Ill., where he met his future wife, Barbara Meutehler, also a native of Germany. They were married in Illinois and ten children were born: Fred, who died in 1900; George, who is in the hardware business at Bird Island; Dora, the wife of H. Fisher of Bird Island; John, of Bird Island; Christine, the wife of William Schmidt of Bemidji, Minn.; Emma now Mrs. John Mehlhouse; Celia, now Mrs. August Felska of Hutchinson, Minn.; Henry, of Norfolk township; and Richard of Thief River Falls, Minn.

William Mehlhouse, one of the substantial farmers of Bird Island township, was born in Lee county, Illinois, Oct. 13, 1873, son of Justus and Mary (Kuemmel) Mehlhouse. He received his early education at the public schools of his native county, came to Renville county with his parents in 1888 and completed his education at the high school at Morton. When the parents came to Renville county they brought with them a corn planter which was the first to be introduced in this section. For about fourteen years William operated this corn planter in his neighborhood. He also used to go out with the threshing crews during the threshing season. At twenty-three years of age he purchased 160 acres of land in section 31, Bird Island township. There were no improvements whatever on this land, it being all wild prairie. He worked early and late and as a result has achieved prosperity, now having a fine house and a complete set of outbuildings and

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GEO. MEHLHOUSE AND FAMILY

has added to his land until he now has 213 acres. He carries on diversified farming and stock raising. For the past seven years he has been clerk of school district No. 137 and for seven years he was a member of Company H, Third Regiment of the Minnesota National Guards of Olivia. He was one of the original stockholders and boosters of the Olivia Canning factory. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company and the Central Creamery Company, both of Olivia. In fact, Mr. Mehlhouse has ever taken an active interest in whatever has been for the good and betterment of his town and county. Mr. Mehlhouse was married Sept. 27, 1904, to Florence Meulhousen, born in Sibley county Feb. 15, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Mehlhouse are the parents of four children: Milton, born Oct. 14, 1905; Pearl, born Oct. 12, 1908; Willard, born Nov. 7, 1911; and John, born April 12, 1914.

George Mehlhouse, a well-known and successful business man of Olivia, was born in Rochelle, Ill., son of Justus and Mary (Kuemmel) Mehlhouse. He was reared on the home farm, and remained in his native state until 1888, when he came to Renville county with his parents and located on section 7, Norfolk township. While the days of the early settlement had passed, nevertheless conditions were still somewhat primitive, and Mr. Mehlhouse was able to purchase eighty acres of land at the low price of \$11 an acre. Mr. Mehlhouse at once started business operating an auger well digger and a threshing machine, living with his parents, and devoting his spare time to developing the farm. By hard work, industry and frugality he added to his possessions until in 1900 he owned 600 acres. Mr. Mehlhouse took up his home in Olivia in 1901 and engaged in the implement business with W. J. Glenn. Mr. Glenn died a few months later, and Charles W. Felska became a partner in the business. Mr. Felska died in 1909 and Matthew Erickson secured an interest in the firm. On July 1, 1912, Mr. Mehlhouse purchased the Erickson interests, and on Aug. 15, 1912, reorganized the business as the Olivia Hardware Co., with George Mehlhouse as president, L. A. Matzdorf as vice president; A. R. Schnellar as secretary and treasurer. On March 31, 1915, Mr. Mehlhouse disposed of his interests. From a small business which he and Mr. Glenn had started fourteen years before the concern had grown in size and importance, automobile and implement departments had been added, and the venture had become one of the largest of its kind in the county. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Mehlhouse has for many years been an extensive dealer in live stock. At present, in company with E. G. Heins, under the firm name of Mehlhouse & Heins, he is engaged in the automobile and garage business. He has just completed a splendid brick block, with full basement and equipped with an elevator. This block constitutes the finest and largest automobile salesroom in Renville county. The office will be amply

furnished for the carrying on of the large business, and the salesrooms will contain the Hudson, Buick, Dodge and Maxwell cars, as well as all sorts of accessories, supplies, oils, greases and the like, while a filling station will be an attractive feature. Mr. Mehlhouse's popularity, his wide acquaintance, and long experience guarantees the success of this venture. Mr. Mehlhouse has taken a prominent part in business, political and fraternal life. He is a stockholder in the Olivia Canning Co., the Farmers' Elevator of Olivia, and the Electric Short Line of Minneapolis. While in the township he was supervisor for two years and he is now serving his third year as a member of the village council. He is a popular member of Olivia Lodge, No. 190, I. O. O. F.; of Olivia Lodge, No. 2350, M. W. A., and of Olivia Lodge, No. 220, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Mehlhouse was married Nov. 12, 1902, to Augusta Muelhausen, born in Sibley county, Minn., Nov. 12, 1880, daughter of August and Augusta (Kuske) Muelhausen. Mr. and Mrs. Mehlhouse have three children: Lillian, born Oct. 28, 1903; Harvey, born Feb. 7, 1907; and Marion, born Aug. 12, 1910. The family faith is that of the Evangelical association.

August Muelhausen, a pioneer of Sibley county, this state, was born in Germany, but as a boy came to St. Louis, Mo. It was in 1864 that he came to St. Paul. From there, in 1870, he came to Sibley county and purchased 160 acres, later adding eighty more and developing a good farm. The land was wild, and the family underwent all the experiences of pioneer life. In 1902 he sold this farm and bought 200 acres in Troy township, this county, where he successfully farmed until 1910, when he sold out and removed to Olivia where he now lives. August Muelhausen was married at St. Paul in 1865 to Augusta Kuske, who came from Germany in 1858. This union has been blessed with eight children: Charlotte, now Mrs. A. A. Juliar, of Mankato; Hannah, now Mrs. L. J. Kuske, of Olivia; John, who died in 1914; Margaret, now Mrs. William Haedt, of Cathay, N. D.; Robert, of Olivia; Louise, now Mrs. O. O. Juliar, of St. Clair, Minn.; Augusta, the wife of George Mehlhouse, of Olivia; and Florence, now Mrs. William Mehlhouse, of Bird Island township.

Justus Mehlhouse, one of the substantial residents of Renville county, was born in Germany, June 24, 1838, there attended school and grew to manhood. When quite a young man he came to America. After spending some years in farming in Lee county, Illinois, he, in 1883, moved with his family to Benton county, Iowa. In 1885 he moved to Tama county, Iowa. In 1888 he came to Renville county, Minn., where he established his home and became one of the leading and prosperous farmers of Renville county. He now has retired from active work and makes his home at Olivia. He was married at Rochelle, Illinois, Nov. 11, 1866, to Mary Kuenmel, born in Germany, Feb. 22, 1845, and



JUSTUS MEDLHOUSE AND FAMILY

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died in Renville county, May 22, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Mehlhouse were the parents of eleven children: George, of Olivia, whose family sketch will be found elsewhere; John, of Olivia, whose sketch will be also found elsewhere in this work; Elizabeth, who keeps house for her father; William, of Bird Island township, whose sketch will be found elsewhere; Kate E., who died July 13, 1909; Anna, now Mrs. Henry Kromer of this county, who has three children, Orlando, Esther and Mildred; Jacob, who conducts the home farm in Norfolk township; Martha, deceased; Minnie, deceased; Nettie, a twin of Minnie, now Mrs. Harry Juliar, of Mankato, and who has two children, Milton and Harold; Rose, who keeps house for her brother Jacob on the farm. The family faith is that of the German Evangelical church.

Leo R. Pirsch, D. D. S., a popular Olivia dentist, was born Feb. 16, 1891, in Caledonia, Minn., son of Peter J. and Johannah (Palen) Pirsch. His father, Peter J. Pirsch was born Sept. 28, 1860, near Milwaukee, Wis. As a young man he learned the carpenter's trade and moved to Caledonia where he engaged in contracting and building. He is still engaged in this work and has achieved great success. May 6, 1885, he married Johannah Palen of Caledonia, born Jan. 28, 1865. They are the parents of the following children: Leo R., of Olivia, and Joseph, of Minneapolis, who is a district manager for the International Correspondence school. Leo R. Pirsch received his early education in the public schools of Caledonia and later attended the University of Minnesota, where he took up a course in dentistry and graduated in 1914. He at once came to Olivia, began his practice as dentist and has built up a good clientele. He is a member of the C. O. F. and has held all the chairs of the lodge at Caledonia.

John F. Lorenz, Bird Island, was born in Austria, Nov. 14, 1864, son of Frank and Theresa (Kreutzer) Lorenz, who in 1868 brought him to America and located at Mankato, where the father followed his trade as blacksmith until his death in 1898, after which the mother took up her home with her children. John F. Lorenz was reared in Mankato, passed through the parochial schools, and at the age of nineteen became a tool sharpener in the granite works at St. Cloud. This work he followed for fifteen years. In that time he prepared the tools for many big contracts, including the Hennepin County Court House and the Minnesota State Capitol. For three years he conducted a shoe store in Mankato. For two years he farmed on a place three miles southeast of Redwood Falls. In 1901 he engaged in business in Bird Island, where he now resides. He has a pleasant home with all modern equipment. Mr. Lorenz is chief ranger of the C. O. F., secretary of the D. R. K. U. G., and a member of the Bird Island Commercial Club. The family faith is that of the

Roman Catholic church, in which Mr. Lorenz is a member of the St. Joseph Society. John F. Lorenz was married Oct. 25, 1887, to Anna M. Mahowald, born March 3, 1867, daughter of John and Katherine (Weber) Mahowald, the former of whom, a general merchant, died in Mankato in 1909 at the ripe age of seventy-nine years, and the latter of whom still lives in Mankato. Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz have seven children: John E., born Sept. 6, 1888, is a teacher; Roman B., born Jan. 6, 1892, is a successful business man of Hector; Ferdinand A., born May 27, 1894, is at home; Agatha, born Sept. 5, 1897, is also at home; Alphonse, born March 24, 1901, and Herman and Crescentia (twins), born June 7, 1903, are attending the parochial schools.

George Quinn, medicine man, friendly Indian during the massacre, was probably born at Kaposia, now South St. Paul, possibly about 1840. He claimed to be a half-breed Sioux and Kickapoo, but it is generally believed to be the son of Peter Quinn, the scout, and Ineyahewin, a Kickapoo squaw. In November, 1862, he was one of the three delegates who conducted the negotiations between Gen. Sibley and Little Crow for the release of prisoners. A note still in existence, signed by S. R. Riggs and T. S. Williamson, missionaries, tells of George Quinn, Mahryaduta and Hunt-kamaza, the three delegates winning the release of the white captives and of bringing them to General Sibley. "Dr." Quinn, as he was called, sold herbs through the Northwest for many years. He died on the reservation near Morton, Jan. 29, 1915. His last words were: "I soon die. Gitchie Manitou, the Mighty, is calling and soon I answer. Soon I face the setting sun and start the long journey. But it is well, my friend. I have lived long, I have seen much. Many moons have passed since I first winged the arrow. I am going to the happy hunting grounds where peace always is."

Dennis Haley, pioneer and veteran of the Indian campaign, was born in Montreal, Canada, June 15, 1842. When 12 years of age, he came to Minnesota, settling in LeSueur county in 1854. On May 22, 1863, he enlisted in Company K, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, under General H. H. Sibley and was in active service from the start in fighting the Sioux warriors. On Nov. 26 of the same year he received his honorable discharge. On Nov. 28, 1866, he was united in marriage to Kate Morgan, and four years later the family moved to Renville county, settling on a homestead in Troy township. His wife died Oct. 25, 1887. At the time of his death, Sept. 31, 1915, he was living with his son, James F. Haley, north of Olivia. He was a member of the G. A. R. A good neighbor, a substantial citizen, a man of kindly and generous impulses, his memory will long be honored.

Carl F. Gummert, proprietor of the Poland China swine and Poultry Farm in Emmet township, is one of the leading stock-



C. F. GUMMERT AND FAMILY



breeders in the state. He was born in Germany, May 31, 1865, son of Christ and Fredericka (Triete) Gummert, who brought their family to America in 1882 and located in Iowa. While still living in Iowa, the father purchased 160 acres in Erickson township, Renville county, six miles north of what is now the city of Renville. In the spring of 1889 the family came to Renville county and purchased the old Lee farm, consisting of 520 acres in section 10, Emmet township. The father, Christ, and the sons Carl F. and Herman, started to improve this large farm, making a specialty of breeding Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine, which they had brought from Iowa. Christ was one of the organizers of the Farmers' Coöperative creamery, mill and elevator at Renville, and took part in other public movements. He died Jan. 1, 1914, at the age of eighty-nine years. His wife died Sept. 29, 1913, at the same age. Carl F. Gummert remained on the home farm until after his marriage. Then he located on the 160-acre farm which his father owned in Erickson township. He improved this farm in various ways, living there two years. Then he purchased a half of the old Lee farm from his father. This half of the farm was unimproved and lay on the north bank of Lee lake, in section 10, Emmet township. Mr. Gummert set at work with a will improving this place. He erected a good home and a complete set of outbuildings, set out a large grove, erected fences, purchased equipment, and made the place one of the best in the township. He still owns the farm but lives in the city of Renville, where he has a comfortable home and twelve acres of land. Mr. Gummert is considered one of the best judges of swine in Minnesota. He specializes in the raising and breeding of pure bred Poland China swine, keeping about 150 animals each year. His exhibits at the state fairs each year always receive a big share of the blue ribbons. In 1910 he won the Grand Champion prize on a boar and brood sow at the Minnesota and South Dakota state fairs and that same year received fifty-four other prizes. In 1911 he received the Senior Champion prize at the Minnesota State fair and the same year won eleven other awards. In 1914 at the Minnesota State Fair he received twenty premiums. To his credit belongs the inauguration of the Brood Sow sales in Minnesota. Already he has held six such sales, and purchasers come from many surrounding states. Among his notable herd boars may be mentioned Hathers Joe, 215.391; Columbus the Great, 215.-398; Choice Wonder, 210.577; Gummert's Expansion, 226.857. Mr. Gummert also makes a specialty of full-blooded Plymouth Rock chickens, Toulouse geese, Mammoth Bronze turkeys, and Rowen ducks. Mr. Gummert has been clerk of the school district 58 and township assessor of Emmet. He was one of those instrumental in establishing the great ditch known as Ditch 45. Carl F. Gummert was married Dec. 2, 1896, to Augusta Asal, of

Arlington, Minn., daughter of George and Augusta Asal, natives of Germany, and married in Minnesota, early pioneers of Grafton township, Sibley county. Mr. and Mrs. Gummert have six children: Elsie, Antonia, Erick, Gladys, Alice and Ruth.

William E. Kemp, at one time county commissioner of Renville county, was born in Havana, Mason county, Ill., May 29, 1851, son of James and Lucina (Wilcox) Kemp. James Kemp was born in Watertown, New York, son of William and Sarah Jane (Hagerty) Kemp, natives of England and Ireland, respectively. They were married in New York City, where he engaged in the shoemaker business. In 1847 he moved, locating in Havana, Ill. James was married there to Lucina Wilcox, native of Ontario, Can., and in 1854 brought his wife and two children, William E. and Charles, to Minnesota, locating in Langdon where he first farmed and later entered into the hardware business. He died June 27, 1899, at the age of 63 years. He held township and school offices. He was prominent as a member of the I. O. O. F. of Hastings, Minn., lodge. William E. received his education at Langdon schools and at the Sparta, Wis., High school. Then he went to Northfield to attend college. On his return home he engaged in farming for himself in Hector township, Renville county, securing 240 acres of wild land May 15, 1878. He built a board shanty and lived here. After a number of years he moved to Hector and engaged in business, but returned to the farm again after about fifteen years. This has been improved with modern buildings and other improvements. He raises Mule Foot swine and Guernsey cattle. In the past he was also an extensive breeder of sheep and still raises a few. He is interested in several farmers' organizations, such as creameries, elevators, etc., and has held office. He has served as township clerk and assessor. He was a member of the county board at the time of the building of the courthouse and jail. Mr. Kemp was married Dec. 18, 1877, to Mahalie Mosher, and they have three children, Edith, a graduate of Hamline University and a teacher; Orville, a farmer of Brookfield township, and Percy.

Ralph K. Dodge, a pioneer, was born in Pelham, Mass., June 16, 1826, and on Dec. 27, 1848, married Susan J. Cook, who was born in New York City March 21, 1829. They were the parents of eleven children: Philo P., born Augusta 26, 1849, in Pelham, Mass.; Theodosha P., born June 5, 1851, and died Nov. 15, 1851, in Massachusetts; Lyman, born July 20, 1853, in Massachusetts; Fenner C., born July 9, 1854, and died Nov. 3, 1884; Eugene, born Dec. 24, 1855, in Massachusetts; Ralph Waldo, born June 22, 1857, in Minnesota, and died August 11, 1876; Lorrin, born May 26, 1859, in Minnesota; Daniel, born March 1, 1861, in Minnesota, and died Dec. 28, 1895; Franklin, born June 21, 1864, and died Nov. 3, 1898; Lillie J., born Oct. 25, 1866; and Anna B., born Dec. 5,

1869. The Dodges were of old New England stock and the Cooks were from Germany. Ralph K. was a carpenter by trade. He brought the family to Hadley Valley near Rochester county, Minnesota, in 1857, where he secured some land and built a frame building. He had an ox team and drove to Winona, the nearest market, for his supplies. He left this place in 1869 and went to Renville county. He located a homestead near Fairfax, township of Cairo, securing a tract of 160 acres of wild prairie land. Here he erected a frame building of elm lumber, and began breaking up the land with his team of oxen. New Ulm was the nearest market. He helped organize the school district of his home section. He died Feb. 28, 1872, and his wife died Nov. 20, 1912, in Ottertail county.

Eugene I. Dodge, a prominent resident and retired farmer of Hector, was born at Montague, Mass., Dec. 24, 1855, son of Ralph K. and Susan J. (Cook) Dodge. He received his education in Olmsted county, this state, and grew to manhood in Renville county, where he engaged in farming. He secured a homestead in Martinsburg township, section 26, obtaining 160 acres of land. He was twenty-one years old at this time. He built a log house 14 by 14 and began improving the land, using an ox team. As time passed he built up a good farm and erected modern buildings. In 1892 he sold his farm and moved to Hector, where he purchased 120 acres in the village limits which he improved and platted into desirable village lots which found a ready market. For the past fifteen years Mr. Dodge has been engaged in the retail ice business. On his place some years ago he constructed a pond seven feet deep, filled by a thirty-five foot well. This pond is filled fresh each fall, and this wholesome water freezes into the purest kind of ice for family purposes. He also has a fine orchard of some 400 trees, largely of the McMann and Wealthy varieties, which in the fall of 1913 produced over 600 bushels of apples. Mr. Dodge was one of the first to own and operate a threshing outfit in the county and followed this line of industry for thirty seasons.

Mr. Dodge held the office of township assessor for one term. He was also a member of the school board. He became a volunteer in the Farmers' Alliance at that time. He first took active part in church work in the Baptist church, holding office there and being superintendent of the Sunday school. Later he became interested in the Methodist church and has held office in the church and has become a member.

Mr. Dodge was married May 1, 1883, to Minnie Marquardt, born in Wisconsin Dec. 14, 1863, daughter of Ferdinand and Augusta Marquardt, both natives of Germany and married in Wisconsin. Mr. Marquardt owned a farm in Wisconsin and later in Martinsburg township, Renville county, coming about 1880 and

remaining there the rest of his days. Mr. and Mrs. Dodge have the following children: Della Clara, born Feb. 25, 1884; Harry Philo, born Dec. 4, 1885; Esther Sadie, born Dec. 8, 1887, and died Sept. 22, 1888; Nettie Bell, born August 12, 1889; Frank L., born March 31, 1891; Chester, born Dec. 5, 1895; Faith H., born March 21, 1899, and died March 31, 1900; Ival Ralph, born August 10, 1902; and Robert F., born Sept. 3, 1903. Della married Burt Moer, of Park Rapids, Minn., and has two children, Florence and Margaret. Frank married Flora Brenham, of Hector, and they have one child, Paul.

Andrew Strom, deceased, was born in Christiania, Norway, Oct. 1, 1820, there grew to manhood and learned the carpenter's trade. He arrived in America in 1850, and in 1856 came with his family to Minnesota and located at Butternut Valley, Blue Earth county, being an early pioneer of that section. There he took a pre-emption claim of 160 acres and engaged in general farming. As soon as the homestead law was enacted he secured a homestead of 80 acres joining his pre-emption claim, thus making 240 acres in his farm. He erected suitable buildings and became prominent in his locality taking a very active part in the affairs of his town. He held different town and school offices and for a time served as one of the county commissioners. In the spring of 1878 he moved his family to Renville county, where they lived for a period of six months in Palmyra township, thence going to the village of Beaver Falls, where they remained one year. In 1879 they moved to Hector, where he built a store and residence, and engaged in the drug and grocery business, following the same along until 1888 when he took his son William B. into partnership. The firm continued as Strom & Son until Mr. Strom's death, Nov. 20, 1902.

He was united in marriage to Maren O. Fosom, in Chicago, in 1856. She was born in Christiania, Norway, in 1822, came to America about 1852, and located in Chicago. She died June 27, 1913. They were the parents of six children. Thora, who was born in Chicago, became Mrs. I. S. Gerald, and died in 1889, leaving two children, Guy Howard and Clara Mand; Odin Alfred the first white child born in Butternut Valley, is in the real estate business in Kerkhoven, Swift county, Minn.; Wm. B., of Hector, is mentioned elsewhere; Alice M., is now Mrs. C. R. Sheppard of California and has four children, Byron, Pearl, Cyrus and Gladys. Cornelia L. is now Mrs. W. L. Ramsey of Billings, Montana, and has one child, Bessie.

William B. Strom, postmaster of Hector since 1897, and merchant since 1888, was born in Butternut Valley, Blue Earth county, Minnesota, October 2, 1860. He received his education at the district schools in Butternut Valley, and the State Normal school at Mankato. In 1878 he came with his parents to Renville county,



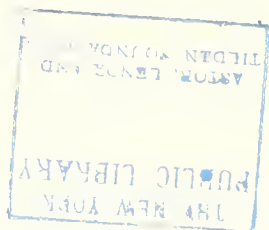
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CHARLES H. EVERT AND FAMILY



locating with them in Palmyra township, removing with them six months later to the village of Beaver Falls, where he entered the drug store of his brother-in-law, I. S. Gerald, with whom he remained until 1880, coming that year to Hector and entering the drug and grocery store which his father had established the year before. In 1888 he became a partner with his father in the business, the firm being known as Strom & Son, and continuing as such until the father's death in 1902, when William B. became sole proprietor. About this time he discontinued the grocery business and equipped the store with a full and complete line of drugs and sundries. Mr. Strom continued alone until 1908, when he formed a co-partnership with R. F. Clark and C. J. Whitney, his brothers-in-law, the firm being known as the W. B. Strom Drug Co. In 1897 Mr. Strom was appointed postmaster of Hector, a position he still retains. Soon after his first appointment, the postoffice was moved into the rear of the drug store, where it is still maintained. Mr. Strom was very active in establishing the rural delivery routes, and now has six routes out of Hector, one more than any other office in the county. When Mr. Strom was appointed, the postoffice was in the fourth class and paid about \$800 a year, but under his management it is now third class and pays \$1,600 a year. In 1903 Mr. Strom, together with his brother-in-law, R. F. Clark, established and constructed the Hector Telephone Co., which they later sold to the present management. Mr. Strom has taken an active interest in the cleanliness and beauty of the village streets, parks and boulevards. In 1899, he purchased the Hector "Sentinel," transferring it to Sacred Heart, where he published it for two years under the name Sacred Heart "Journal," and there sold it. Mr. Strom served on the Congressional Committee during Joel Heatwolde's Congressional career, having charge of his campaign in Renville county. He is president of the Commercial club, vice president of the Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank, former president of the Board of Education and served as justice of the peace for a number of years. His fraternal affiliations are with Hector Lodge, No. 158, A. F. & A. M. Aside from his beautiful home and other property in Hector, he has a half acre in Kandiyohi county, located on the south shore of Diamond Lake, where he has a fine summer cottage, motor boat and other comforts.

Mr. Strom was married August 22, 1888, to Lola L. Clark, born in Victory, Wisconsin, January, 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Strom have had three children. Russell Rex, born July 8, 1889, passed through the graded and high schools of Hector, took a four-year academic course in the University of Nebraska and one year in the medical department of the Minnesota State university, and is now studying medicine in the Northwestern University Medical Department at Chicago. Gyneth Maymie died in infancy, 1901.

William Clark, born May 9, 1903, is a pupil in the Hector high school.

G. C. Clark and Sarah Wilcox Clark, parents of Mrs. W. B. Strom, moved from Victory, Wisconsin, to Minneapolis, and later to Anoka, where the father died, after which the mother came to Hector, where she still resides. They were the parents of three children, Lola L., now Mrs. W. B. Strom, of Hector; Effie, now Mrs. C. J. Whitney, of Hector; and Russell F., of Hector. He married Florence Harding and they have two children, Dorothy and Floyd.

Hans Hanson is a prominent farmer of Granite Falls township, Chippewa county, just over the line from Renville county. He was born in Norway Jan. 29, 1838, son of Hans Thoroson Hanson and Anna Hanson. He came to America in 1865 and lived on Highland Prairie, Fillmore county, until coming to Renville county with them in 1867. A year later he left home and filed on a quarter section in Granite Falls township, just over the line in Chippewa county. Amid discouraging circumstances he started work to establish for himself a home in the wilderness. Many times in making trips to the nearest markets at Willmar and New Ulm he had to subsist the entire distance on frozen bread and sometimes he narrowly escaped serious injury during severe snow storms and frosts. When the grasshoppers came he found it impossible to obtain a living on the farm and consequently secured employment in the flouring mill of Park Warden at Minnesota Falls. In this business he engaged for some ten years. The farm in the meantime continued to occupy his attention and since then has engaged all his energies. His original log house was replaced with a frame dwelling and substantial outbuildings took the place of the shacks which in the early days sheltered his stock. Mr. Hanson has taken an active part in the development of the community, has been supervisor of the township, and for over thirty years, served as treasurer of his school district. He has likewise taken a deep interest in the affairs of the Hawk Creek Norwegian Lutheran church. His farm consists of 600 acres, forty acres of which are in Renville county, and on this splendid tract he successfully carries on general farming along the latest approved lines.

Mr. Hanson was married in Norway, January 11, 1863, to Christena Olson, who died on the farm April 8, 1907. In the family there were eleven children: Hans, Jr., Albert, Anna Christena, Albert, Mary Lilly, Julius H., Helmer and Julia. Hans, Jr., was born in Norway, Jan. 13, 1863, and now farms in Clear Water county, Minn. Albert was born in Fillmore county, in 1865, and died at the age of two and a half years. Anna Christena was born Jan. 12, 1867, and is now Mrs. O. P. Berg, of Granite Falls, Minn. Albert was born Aug. 24, 1869, and farms in Granite Falls

township, Chippewa county. He married Lena Seim and their children are Hubert, Esther, Evelyn, Margaret and Harriett. Mary was born Aug. 17, 1871, and died Oct. 22, 1898. Lilly was born Aug. 6, 1873, and is now Mrs. Fred Bakke, of Granite Falls township. Julius H. was born April 25, 1875, and farms in Hawk Creek township. Helmer was born May 11, 1878, and is associated with his father in conducting the home farm. He married Mathilda Thorstad and his children are Maurice, Philip, Donald, Florence and Richard.

Hans Thoroson Hanson, a highly respected early settler, now deceased, was born in Norway in 1805 and there spent his early manhood. In 1862 he with his wife, his two sons and a daughter came to America and located on Highland Prairie in Fillmore county, where they remained until 1867. In that year they set out for Renville county and after arriving filed on a claim in sections 18 and 19, Hawk Creek township, where they started pioneer life in a crudely constructed shack. They passed through all the vicissitudes of frontier life and in time achieved the prosperity which they so richly deserved. Mr. Hanson died in 1889. His good wife who was born in 1810 died in 1880. In the family were five children: Hans, Thorvald, Olaus, Mary and Christopher, all born in Norway.

Thorvald, Olaus and Mary came to Fillmore county with their parents in 1862, and to Renville county in 1867. Christopher did not come to America until later.

Hans was born Jan. 29, 1838, and now farms in Chippewa county. He is appropriately mentioned elsewhere.

Thorvald was born in 1840 and upon coming to Renville county took a homestead in section 18, Hawk Creek township, where he farmed until his death.

Olaus was born in 1844 and upon coming to Fillmore county took land in section 19, Hawk Creek township. He became a man of considerable distinction and carried on farming until 1911, when he sold his farm to his son-in-law, John Agre.

Mary is the wife of K. O. Agre of Hawk Creek township.

Christopher was born April 26, 1836, and now farms in Hawk Creek township. He is appropriately mentioned elsewhere.

Julia was born Jan. 20, 1880, and died in 1897. In addition to these nine there were two who died in early infancy.

Charles H. Evert, one of the well-known residents of Troy township, was born in Rice county, Feb. 15, 1864, the son of Joseph and Lisette (Schultz) Evert, who brought him to Renville county in 1878. After leaving school he remained at home, helping his father on the farm in Flora township, until 1884, when he rented a farm for two years. He then bought 160 acres in Troy township. He broke and developed the land, erected a house and outbuildings, and remained there until 1899 when he

moved to Olivia and devoted a few years to active business life. Ultimately he purchased 120 acres in section 11, Troy township. He has remodeled the house, erected a new barn and other buildings and has greatly beautified the place. Additional land has been bought so that now the farm consists of 360 acres, all of which is tillable with the exception of about twelve acres. Mr. Evert is a man of progressive ideas, and does diversified farming, feeding and shipping two or three carloads of cattle every winter. He has served on the town board and for several years was school clerk. In addition to the home farm he owns a fine farm in Stevens county and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Coöperative Creamery. He is a member of the Evangelical church of Olivia. Mr. Evert was united in marriage to Bertha Seide, March 27, 1884. Mrs. Evert was born in Germany, June 21, 1861, and came to this country with her parents, Christopher and Anna (Schultz) Seide, in 1868, locating with them in Nicollet county where they engaged in farming and where both parents died. Mr. and Mrs. Evert have had eight children: Henry C., a farmer of Troy township, who married Mary Zachow, has one child, Helen L.; Emma L., who married George Juliar, who is farming in Blue Earth county, their family consisting of two children, Earl and Delmar; Arthur C., Laura A., Elmer E., Benjamin F., Edward W., and Estella M., all of whom are at home. Joseph Evert, born in Germany, married Lisette Schultz in the Fatherland and removed to America in 1862 settling in Rice county. For three years he followed teaming at Dundas. Then he began farming in the same county where he remained until 1878 when he came to this county and bought 80 acres of partly improved land in Flora township, where he engaged in general farming. In time he added another 80 acres to his original purchase, developing a fine property. Leaving the farm in the fall of 1901 he and his good wife moved to the village of Morton. In the spring of 1905 they moved to the state of Washington. After the death of his wife there, Joseph Evert returned to Renville county where he now makes his home with his children.

Solomon Bergman, born in Sweden, April 24, 1836, son of Swan and Anna Munson, who were parents of four children, Peter, Andrew, Solomon and Christine. Solomon's father died when he was fifteen years of age and Peter and Solomon were the only ones of the family to come to America. Solomon was married to Johanna Christina Pearson of Sweden, April 23, 1860. She was the daughter of Peter and Ingre Anderson. Solomon left his wife and children in Sweden and came to America in 1870 to New York where he began working in a stone quarry. The first winter was spent in the woods of Michigan and in the spring he came to Judson, Blue Earth county, Minnesota. Here the family joined him in 1871 and the following spring they moved to Renville county where he located 80 acres in section 22, Palmyra

township, and built a dugout. The family came in a covered wagon drawn by a team of oxen. It was all wild land and Mr. Bergman began breaking up the land with the help of the oxen. He bought 80 acres adjoining in section 15. He endured many hardships during the first years. For four years in succession his crops were destroyed by the grasshoppers. Beaver Falls was the nearest milling place. In 1880 he built a frame house and barns. In 1881 a cyclone destroyed every building on the place and new buildings had to be erected. Mr. Bergman improved his farm and had a large fine farm and kept a good grade of stock. He was interested in farmers' organizations and was a member of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Hector and a member of the board of directors. He was also one of the organizers of the Farmers' Insurance Company, known as the Palmyra Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He later became a director of the company and served as vice president. He was also a stockholder of the Hector Telephone Company and Exchange. Mr. Bergman was a leader in the affairs of his community and township and held the office of township treasurer for seventeen years. He was also a member of the school board and helped organize district No. 86. He was a member of the Swedish Lutheran church and was one of the organizers of this church, being its secretary for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Bergman have had the following children: August (deceased), Anna Matilda, Emelie Sophia, Julia Marie, Jennie Augusta, August P., John W. (deceased), Albert F., Carl E., and Nathalia C. Anna Matilda is now Mrs. C. G. Johnson of Minneapolis, and has the following children: Mabel (deceased), Elmer, Clarence, Renben, Agnes and Myrtle. Emelie Sophia is now Mrs. Claus W. Peterson of Minneapolis. They have two children: Albert and Harry. Julia Marie married C. M. Johnson and died Oct. 13, 1912, leaving the following children: Herbert, Rudolph, Sidney and Violet. Jennie Augusta is now Mrs. Emil R. Johnson of Minneapolis. Their children are Wallace, Emery and Lillian. Albert F. has for the past fifteen years rented the old homestead and of late years August P. has been his partner. August P. is now a stockholder and director of the Hector Elevator Company and Albert F. has served as chairman and supervisor on the town board. Carl E. is a painter at Hector. Nathalia C. is now Mrs. Albert Anderson of Palmyra and has three children: Viola, Gladys and Burgess.

Mr. Bergman died Sept. 19, 1908, at the age of seventy-two years, four months and twenty-six days. His wife is still living with her sons, on the old home farm in section 15, Palmyra township.

James H. Rich of Pine Hill Farm was born in Bucksport township, Hancock county, Maine, Jan. 6, 1849, son of Benjamin and

Sarah (Davis) Rich. Benjamin Rich was born in Bucksport, Maine, son of Benjamin, Sr., and Debora (Wily) Rich. He was a native of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, son of Robert Rich, native of England who as a child came to Massachusetts with his father. Benjamin Rich, Sr., was a sailor, being a whaler of Cape Cod. He retired from this work and bought some land and lived at Bucksport, Maine, where he died. Benjamin Rich, Jr., took over the old farm of his father and spent his life there. His children were George, Charles, James H., Sarah, Luther, Mary, William and Albion. Sarah Davis was born in Sangerville, Maine, daughter of Abijah and Amelia (Harding) Davis, both of English ancestry.

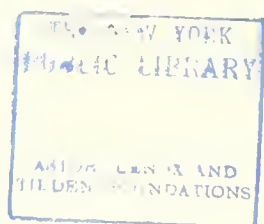
James H. attended the school of his native township and farmed in the summer and worked in the lumber camps in the winter time. He came to Wisconsin at the age of eighteen years and engaged in lumber business and continued this in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota for about eight years. Then he lived in Wisconsin for a year and a half and in 1877 came in a covered wagon drawn by horses to Renville county, Minnesota, the trip from Waupaca county to Minnesota taking eleven days. He located the present place in section 20, obtaining 100 acres of school land; there were no buildings on the place and it was all wild land.

The family rented a house nearby until their own house was ready. A small house 16 by 24 was built and also a hay roof barn. The nearest trading posts were Glencoe and Hutchinson. The grasshoppers destroyed the crops the first year and the hot winds blighted the straw. He had one cow and began improving the farm. He still owns the old farm and has given it the name of Pine Hill, deriving the name from the number of pine trees on the place set out by himself in the early days.

He is a member of the school board and helped organize district No. 120. Mr. Rich was married in Wisconsin in 1876 to Abby Waite, born in Wisconsin, daughter of Smith L. and Elmira (Eldridge) Waite. Samuel L. Waite was a native of New York. Elmira Eldridge was a native of Maine and of English parentage. Mr. and Mrs. James H. Rich are parents of five children: Arthur, born July 2, 1875, was married to Mary Buckley, and lives at Minneapolis. Charles, born June 22, 1878, was accidentally killed at Cass Lake, Minn., while loading logs at the landing. Mark, born July 27, 1882, conducts the home farm. He is a member of the M. W. A. and of the I. O. O. F. He served as town clerk for one year and was school treasurer nine years. He was married to Helma Meier and has two children, Dorris Beryl and Arthur Henry. Elgie, born July 17, 1885, resides at home. Beryl, born Dec. 9, 1888, married Arthur W. Ritchie and lives at Royalton, Wisconsin.



MR. AND MRS. AUGUST HUSOCK
PHILIP BINGENHEIMER AND FAMILY



Phillip Bingenheimer, one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Renville county, was born in Hanover, Wright county, this state, Feb. 27, 1856, son of Jacob and Margaret (Schneider) Bingenheimer, who were born in Germany, came to the United States in 1842 and 1851, respectively, were married in Fond du Lac, Wis., settled in the early fifties in Wright county, this state, engaged in farming a while, later moved to Minneapolis, where the father engaged in the milling business and there ended their days, the father in 1873 and the mother in 1910. In the family there were nine children: Phillip; Mary, now Mrs. James Kistler, of Minneapolis; Ferdinand, of Mandan, North Dakota; Louisa, now Mrs. Charles Schnacke, of St. Paul; George, of Mandan, North Dakota; Edward, of Timmers, North Dakota; Catherine, now of Minneapolis; and Gustave A. and Ida, of Minneapolis.

Phillip Bingenheimer was afflicted with poor eyes during the first twelve years of his life and this was a great handicap to him in obtaining an education. He remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age, and then started to work out as a farm hand. In 1878 he took a homestead in Crooks township, this county, but disposed of it, and in 1882 purchased 40 acres in section 19, Troy township. He erected a shanty, worked his land summers and teamed winters in Minneapolis. In 1884 he was married and settled permanently on his farm. By hard work, intelligent effort, and frugal habits he has increased his holdings until he now owns 400 acres located in sections 17, 18 and 19, Troy township. He has made many improvements, erected a splendid dwelling, a fine set of barns and outbuildings, and the necessary sheds and the like. He has a well tilled, well fenced farm, and his machinery, tools, implements and equipment are of the best. Aside from carrying on general farming on an extensive scale, he makes a specialty of breeding Black Poll Angus cattle. Aside from his farming interests, Mr. Bingenheimer is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Danube and in the Danube State Bank. Mr. Bingenheimer was married June 7, 1884, to Paulina Hussock, who was born in Germany June 1, 1865, and was brought to this country in 1871 by her parents, August and Christina (Fussan) Hussock. Mr. and Mrs. Bingenheimer have had six children: Walter E., Florence, Eleanor, Harry, Richard and Margaret. Walter E. is a farmer of Flora township. He was married June 3, 1915, to Bertha Black, who was born June 1, 1896. Florence lives in Brookings, South Dakota. She was born May 4, 1890, and was married Sept. 5, 1912, to Edward Black. Eleanor, born July 29, 1895, and Harry, born April 23, 1897, are both at home. Richard and Margaret died in infancy. August Hussock was born in Germany, married Christina Fussan, came to this country in June, 1871, lived two months in New Ulm, took a homestead in Emmet township, this county, in October, 1871, and there en-

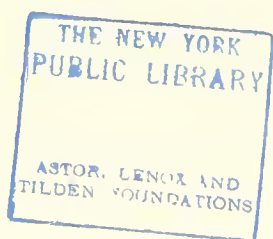
gaged in farming. Mrs. Hussock died in 1911, and Mr. Hussock now makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. Phillip Bingenheimer. They were the parents of three children: Paulina, now Mrs. Phillip Bingenheimer; Paul, of Portland, Oregon, and Matilda, now Mrs. Ernest Hoffman, of Emmet township.

Anton M. Holtan, retired farmer and business man, of Renville, Minn., was born March 23, 1857, at Laurdahl, Norway, the son of Mathew J. and Cecil Marie (Oldberg) Holtan. He came to America in 1874 and spent two years in Minneapolis, leaving there for Riverside, where he conducted a general store, going from there to Dawson, where he pursued the same business for the same length of time. Selling out he went to Sacred Heart, where he sold farm implements and acted as the agent of the Singer Sewing Machine Co. He disposed of this business in 1890 and came to Renville, where he bought out Rolson & Kleimenhagen, the meat dealers. He formed a partnership with his brother Edward and for four years the new firm conducted the business, when it was sold to Ora Howe. Mr. Holtan then purchased 320 acres of land in Crooks township, where he resided one year, leaving there for Renville where he now lives. In addition to this farm he owns 160 acres in Sacred Heart township and 30 acres in Renville city in addition to his home there. For many years he has been a stock buyer and is engaged in that business now. At one time he owned an elevator at Renville, which he operated for three years. In politics he is independent. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Holtan was married Feb. 2, 1906, to Laura Peterson, born Aug. 7, 1869, at Norland, Norway, daughter of Pierre and Alice (Swenson) Peterson. Mrs. Holtan came to America Sept. 6, 1904, and lived for a short time at Hesper, Iowa, removing to Renville county, Minn., in 1905.

Mathew J. Holtan was born in 1815 at Laurdahl, Norway, and died April 11, 1885, at Norway, never having been in America. He married Cecil Marie Oldberg, born in 1825 at Oldberg, Norway, the date of the wedding being in 1844. Mrs. Holtan came to America in 1890 and died at Minneapolis in 1894. She was the mother of eight children: Jacob, who died in Minneapolis; Regenia, dead; Regenia, now Mrs. A. Hanson; Edward, who died in Minneapolis in 1906; Anton M., of Renville; Lars, who died in Minneapolis in 1892; Martin, who died in Minneapolis in 1885; Elsie Andrea, now Mrs. E. Myrhe, who is living in Norway.

Pierre Peterson, born January 6, 1825, at Henningvar, Norway, died Dec. 11, 1901, at Henningvar, Norway. He married Alice Swenson in 1857. She was born Sept. 24, 1836, at Overholen, Norway, and died Aug. 28, 1898, at Henningvar, Norway. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Peterson ever came to America. They had ten children; John, of Henningvar, Norway; Laura, now Mrs. A. M.





MR. AND MRS. CHARLES G. JOHNSON

Holtan, of Renville, and Simon, Edward, Karl, Anton, Julius, Anton, Conrad and Alfred, all of whom are dead.

Charles Gustaf Johnson, county surveyor of Renville county, was born July 30, 1845, in Sweden. His parents, John Peter Johnson and Betsy Johnson, came to America in 1853. After his father's death, he and his mother went to St. Peter, Minn., settling there in the fall of 1856. On August 18, 1862, Mr. Johnson enlisted in Company D of the Ninth Minnesota Volunteers, and served until the close of the war. His regiment was sent first to Ft. Snelling, where they were drilled and taught the commands. In September Company D was sent to St. Peter, Minn., to help put down an Indian uprising, which broke out August 18, 1862. Mr. Johnson was one of the guards at the hanging of thirty-eight Indians at Mankato, Minn., Dec. 26, 1862. In March, 1863, Company D was sent to Judson Minn., where it built a sod fort 165 feet square, and was engaged in subduing the Indians throughout the summer of 1863. For a while Company D was stationed at Fairmount, Minn., where it erected a log fort. In August one-half of the company was sent twelve miles northwest from Fairmount to erect a sod fort, 132 feet square, called Chanyuska. This sod fort was near the shore of a small lake by the same name. The fort was nine feet in height on the outside, the walls were nine feet thick at the bottom; the inside walls graduated upward by steps to two feet in thickness, the last two feet of the height containing many portholes. In the two diagonal corners were built two round projections, of the same height as the walls, for firing purposes along the walls. On October 8, 1863, the company was ordered to St. Louis, Mo., and arrived there Oct. 12, and left there Oct. 13, for Jefferson City, Mo. On March 7, 1864, the company was ordered to Kansas City, Mo. Here there was fighting with Quantrell's bushwhackers. May 21, 1864, a move was made to Memphis, Tenn., under General Stergus. Here the troops were opposed by General Johnson and General N. B. Forrest. On June 1, the troops started on a raid headed for Guntown, Miss. On June 10, ninety miles out from Memphis, the troops met defeat at the hands of the enemy. The retreat toward Memphis was a running fight, the enemy crowding close on the rear. On June 12, about eighteen miles west from the town of Ripley, Mr. Johnson, with a number of others, was captured and sent to Andersonville prison, Ga., arriving there June 19, 1864. He was confined there three months and eleven days, until Oct. 1, 1864. There were about 35,000 prisoners there at that time. He was then removed to Savannah, Ga., and Oct. 10 left for Millen. Nov. 21 he left for Blackshear, Ga., where he remained four days, and while there signed parole papers. He left Blackshear on those parole papers, by way of Charleston, S. C. While the prisoners were passing through Charleston the town was shelled by the United

States guns, from some island about seven miles off to the east, a shell dropping about every minute. Arriving at Florence, S. C., on Nov. 28, 1864, the paroled prisoners were inclosed in another prison pen, and given the same inhuman treatment as at Andersonville, Ga. The food was scant and each person had to dig himself down into the earth into a hole big enough for two persons to be side by side to keep from freezing to death. About March 1, 1865, the prisoners were put aboard a freight train, en route for the Libby prison at Richmond, Va. It was said that Gen. Sheridan's army cut off the railroad connection into Richmond, so March 3, 1865, the prisoners were put off at some point in North Carolina and were carried down the Cape Fear river on a United States Transport to Wilmington, North Carolina, arriving there March 4. Here they were fed; and weakened by their nine months of terrible hardships and privation, the unaccustomed diet made many very ill, Mr. Johnson included. March 8, 1865, they were again put on a transport at Wilmington, North Carolina, which conveyed them to Annapolis, Md., where they were well fed, and bathed, and fitted out with new clothing. From Annapolis Mr. Johnson was sent to Benton Barracks, Mo., and thence home on sick leave. August 13, 1865, he rejoined his regiment at Ft. Snelling and was mustered out August 19, 1865. His mother having married again, he went to his step-father's home (his mother having died Oct. 13, 1861), where he remained until 1870. After finishing the common school he entered the academy at Carver, Minn., graduating in 1867. He studied civil engineering at home and assisted other surveyors as chain man. In 1870 he bought 120 acres of land in Renville county, Minn., and added to his holdings until at one time he had 433 acres. He now has 160 acres of the original farm. In 1873 he was elected county surveyor, and has been in continuous service ever since. He has the honor of being the oldest county surveyor in point of service in the state. In 1897 our veteran made his home in Renville. He is a Republican and has served as notary public, postmaster ten years at Vicksburg, Minn., justice of the peace, township supervisor and assessor. The family worship at the Swedish Lutheran church of Sacred Heart which was organized in the year 1871 and of which Mr. Johnson is a charter member.

Mr. Johnson was married April 12, 1868, at St. Peter, Minn., to Christina M. Holmberg, daughter of John Peter and Louisa Holmberg. She was born in Hvetlanda, Sweden, Sept. 7, 1850, and came to America with her brother Carl, arriving in June, 1866. Seven children were born of this marriage: Frank (deceased, Aug. 25, 1915, at Seattle, Wash.), electrical engineer, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, and for ten years professor of electrical engineering at the University of Washington; Hilda L., a nurse; Anna A. (deceased, March 1, 1912, at Minne-

apolis, Minn.), a graduate of the Gustafus Adolphus college at St. Peter, Minn.; C. Augusta (deceased, March 29, 1898, at Viekburg, Minn.); Carl Walter, of St. Paul, Minn.; a civil engineer, state highway commissioner and bridge inspector, a graduate of Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.; Emily C., a Chicago music teacher and pipe organist, and Florence A., a graduate of the University of Minnesota, teacher and supervisor of public school music at Ewa, Hawaiian Islands.

John Peter Johnson was born Feb. 18, 1816, in Sweden, where he carried on farming. Coming to America in 1853 he went to Chicago and while there the whole family was taken sick with the cholera, the result being that all, with the exception of Mrs. Johnson and Charles, succumbed to the disease, the father dying August 11, 1854. There were four children in the family, Charles Gustaf and August, who died in Chicago in 1853, and Clara and John who died there in 1854.

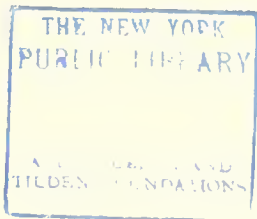
Betsy S. Johnson was born Sept. 18, 1816, in Grenna, Sweden. Two years after the death of her husband in Chicago she went to St. Peter, Minn., where she earned her living in various ways, with the help of such assistance as Charles could give. In a few months she took up a claim in Nicollet county, built a log cabin and made improvements from time to time. July 7, 1857, she married John Magnus Johnson, by whom she had two children, Matilda M. and Anna J., both of whom are now dead. Her second husband died in 1899.

John Peter Holmberg was born in Sweden and died at St. Peter, Minn. His wife, Louisa Holmberg, died in Sweden. She was the mother of seven children: Louisa, now Mrs. Joseph Anderson; Christina M., the wife of Charles G. Johnson; Lena, now Mrs. Jonas Linstrom; Jonas, who died in 1867; John M., deceased in 1913; Carl, who died in the same year; Eva, the wife of S. A. Peterson.

Edwin S. Johnson, the efficient postmaster of Franklin, was born in Columbia county, Wis., Aug. 9, 1855, son of Samuel and Alice (Anderson) Johnson, natives of Norway, who located in Columbia county, Wis., in 1854, and in 1867 took a claim in Wannamingo township, Goodhue county, this state where they died, he in 1889, at the age of eighty-four and she, in 1870, at the age of fifty-seven. Of the twelve children, only two, Edwin S. and Katie (now wife of E. O. Haugesag, a retired farmer of Kenyon, Minn.) are now living. Edwin S. Johnson started in life for himself at the age of fifteen years by working as a farm hand. At the age of eighteen he, with brother Halvar, came to Renville county and opened a grocery store near the schoolhouse of District 1, in section 18, Camp township. They conducted this store from 1873 to 1874. During the season of 1875 he was in the harvest fields in Lac qui Parle, owing to the ravages of the grasshoppers who had

eaten the Renville county crops. In 1876 Edwin S., together with his brother-in-law, Engebret Thompson, started farming on the place of their mother-in-law, Mrs. John Anderson, in the same section. In 1879 he sold his interest in the farm to Engebret Thompson and moved to section 12, township 112, range 34, Birch Cooley. In the spring of 1881 he was appointed postmaster of Franklin, the office then being located three-quarters of a mile southeast of the present site of the village. In the fall of 1882, Mr. Johnson moved to the new village of Franklin. He was the first settler of Franklin village. In the summer he had built the first building into which he moved the postoffice and in which the first store was also located, this being conducted by Hohle Brothers (Sever and Andrew). This was before the streets were laid out or before it was platted, consequently when it was platted his building stood in the middle of the Third street, so he had to move it on to the corner of the new road, block 1, lot 15. In 1885 he laid in a stock of general merchandise. In 1889 he sold out and managed an Elevator for the Great Western Elevator Co., for nine years. Then he managed a store for P. P. Lee. A year and a half later he and Mathias Kelly bought the store, but after another year had passed, he sold the place to Mr. Kelly and with C. H. Hopkins and John M. Johnson engaged in the land business for two years. Then with Iver Mahlum as a partner he conducted a general store at Franklin. Feb. 1, 1907, he sold out his interest in the store to become postmaster, having received his commission, and on April 5, 1907, entered the postoffice where he has continued ever since. He has been village recorder for four years and secretary of the school board thirty years. He has been secretary of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity church since its organization. Edwin S. Johnson was married, Jan. 7, 1875, to Gurina Anderson, born Nov. 22, 1855, daughter of John and Martha Anderson a sister of A. J. Anderson, of Camp township, and twin sister of Mrs. Engebret Thompson, of Camp township. Of their nine children, seven are living. Aliee and Samuel are dead. Jeanette is the wife of O. A. Olson, assistant cashier of the Franklin State Bank. George is a railroad employee at Butte, Montana. Martha is the wife of J. L. Jacobs, editor and owner of the Franklin "Tribune." Leona, Arthur, Grace and Mary are at home.

Julius O. Anderson, a successful farmer and stock raiser of Melville township, was born in Bandon township, this county, Jan. 1, 1881, son of Ole and Sophia Johanna (Bogema) Anderson. He attended the district schools of Bandon and on March 22, 1903, graduated from the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota. He remained at home until twenty-three years of age, and then rented a farm in section 5, Melville township. In 1910 he purchased from his father 160 acres in the northwest quarter





MR. AND MRS. W. H. JEWELL

of the same section. In 1912 he rebuilt the house and erected a 16 by 36 stave silo. In 1915 he rebuilt the barn, making it 32 by 76 feet with a 14-foot lean-to. He carries on general farming, keeps some fifty head of cattle including six head of registered Jerseys, and ships some 100 Duroc-Jersey swine each year. Although busy with his own duties, Mr. Anderson has not neglected public affairs, and for twelve years he has done good service as clerk of the school board of his district. He is one of the directors of the Bird Island Farmers' Elevator Co.

He was married June 12, 1912, to Emma Poore, who was born in Osceola township, this county, Aug. 24, 1884, daughter of Hamlin V. and Caroline (Hibbard) Poore. Hamlin V. Poore was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, was married Feb. 20, 1873, to Caroline Hibbard, a native of Desota, Missouri, came to Osceola township in 1876, took up a homestead of 160 acres in the southeast quarter of section 19, became one of the most extensive bee-raisers in the state and still makes his home there.

Ole Anderson was born Dec. 17, 1853, in Norway, came to America in 1860, lived in Iowa for about a year, located in Spring Grove, Houston county, this state, about three years, came to Renville county, and located in Camp township, bought a quarter section of railroad land in section 23, Bandon, added 160 more in section 35 in 1897 and there lived until June 9, 1899, when he traded his land and came into possession of the north half and the southwest quarter of section 5, Melville township. In 1907 he retired to Bird Island. His wife was born in Norway Dec. 9, 1854, came to America at the age of twelve years, and died in Bird Island Aug. 9, 1913.

William Harvey Jewell, a successful farmer of Bird Island, was born Jan. 3, 1831, in Saratoga county, New York, son of Joseph and Hannah (Greenfield) Jewell. His father and grandfather were also born in New York State, his grandfather living to the age of 105. The family came to New York from Holland in Colonial days. Joseph Jewell, the father, a carpenter by trade, left New York in 1847, and located at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where he lived for six or seven years. There William H. Jewell saw the first raft go over Bull Falls. It had eight men on it and went over without any trouble but the second raft became stuck and the men worked all day before they could get it over. Mr. Jewell assisted in the building of a sawmill thirty miles above on the river. In the spring of 1867 he located in Renville county, securing 160 acres on the east Birch Cooley creek, where he erected a frame house and started farming with an ox team and a horse team. Later he moved to Bird Island where he bought a tract of 80 acres, a part of which was under water. He lived there three years and then he sold this property and bought the block in Bird Island, where he erected a substantial residence which

he afterward sold. He also sold lots 1, 4, and 5, but afterward bought back a half of lot 5. Then he erected his present sightly residence. Mr. Jewell has held several offices, his first office being that of sheriff of Renville county in 1869. The county seat was then located at Beaver Falls. He was also postmaster at Birch Cooley ten years being one of the first postmasters of the county. He has been chairman of the board of supervisors and has also been street commissioner on the village board, many good roads being built in this section during that time. Mr. Jewell was married at the age of twenty-one to Caroline Bunce. To this union were born five children: Lucian, a farmer at Morgan; Bell, now Mrs. Chas. Cane, of Brook Park, Minn.; Sarah (deceased); Georgiana, now Mrs. Alex DeWitt, of Dogden, North Dakota, and Leonard, a farmer of North Dakota. The present Mrs. Jewell was Ellen Day, widow of William Ryan, and daughter of Joseph and Martha M. (Dickey) Day. She was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, Feb. 18, 1855. By her marriage to Wm. Ryan the following children were born: John, of Appleton, Wis.; William, who is manager of the Farmers' Elevator of Sheldon, North Dakota; Mary (deceased), and James, who is on a claim in Montana.

Peter Lahti, pioneer hunter and trapper, was born in Finland in 1834. As a young man he went to Norway. From Hammarfest, Norway, with his family, he set sail for the United States, landing at Montreal after a seven weeks' trip aboard a sailing vessel, going thence to Quebec, and thence to Chicago, from which city they came to St. Peter, Minnesota. He there enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery and served ten months. In the fall of 1865 he came to Renville county and, in 1866, took a homestead of 160 acres in section 12, in Birch Cooley, township 112, range 34. There he established his home. He had a camp on the north side of Bird Island lake, and there he went yearly to hunt and trap. One year he brought home 9,000 muskrat skins in one load, which he sold at from 10 to 15 cents each. After a long and useful life he died July 7, 1911. His wife, Johanna, now lives with her son, Charles Lahti.

Charles Lahti, who has been actively identified with Renville county life for many years past, was born in Norway, of Swedish ancestry, Nov. 22, 1859, son of Peter and Johanna Lahti. He was brought to America by his parents, and after locating with them in St. Peter for a while, came with them to Birch Cooley township. As a youth, he helped about the farm, hunted and trapped with his father, and attended the district schools at times. In 1877 he went to Minneapolis and did railroad work for three years. In 1880 he rented the home place, in section 12, for five years and then purchased it. Being an enterprising and successful farmer he soon was able to increase his holdings, and added to this tract until he owned 416 acres in Renville county, 160 in Aitkin county

and two small farms twenty-two miles from Tampa, Florida. In 1903 he retired and moved to the village of Franklin, where he now resides. He is a stockholder in the milling company and has various other interests. Mr. Lahti has a clock, bought in St. Peter in 1865, which still runs and keeps good time.

Charles Lahti was married Dec. 22, 1890, to Bertha Ylilahta, and they have had four children: Mabel, who died at the age of twelve; Sadie, who died at the age of ten; Esther, who died at the age of eight, and Stella, at home.

Theo. Kaegbein, contractor of Fairfax, was born in Jefferson county, Wis., Feb. 19, 1871, son of Henry and Minnie (Drager) Kaegbein. His father was born in Germany, April 23, 1813, and his mother was born in the Province of Posen, Nov. 30, 1823. They came to America in 1850 and engaged in farming in Jefferson county, Wis. The father died May 31, 1903, and the mother died May 7, 1900. Theo. Kaegbein lived at home until eighteen years of age, when he went to Illinois and worked out on farms. Then he engaged in carpenter work at New Ulm in 1892 and continued in this work until 1899, when he came to Fairfax. Here he also engaged in carpenter work and continued until 1909, when he engaged in general contracting and building and has been very successful. Mr. Kaegbein was married June 7, 1905, to Pauline Schumacher, of Cairo township, daughter of Ernst Schumacher. Mrs. Kaegbein took first prize at Renville county fair at Bird Island in 1915 on the following: curtains with tatted inserting, home-made hard soap, rye bread, angel food cake, fruit cookies and piccallili. In 1914 she took first prizes on hand embroidered center-piece, canned corn, canned peaches and pickled pears.

Cornelius O. Knudson, restaurant keeper of Fairfax, was born in La Salle county, Ill., May 25, 1870, son of Henry Knudson, a retired farmer of Humboldt, Iowa, who was born March 4, 1842, and of Martha Knudson, who was born Aug. 13, 1849. At the age of twenty-one, Cornelius O. Knudson started out in life for himself, and was variously employed for some twelve years, eight of which years he spent with L. J. Grove, of his native county. For five years he farmed in Emmet county, Iowa. In 1909 he operated a bakery in Humboldt, Iowa, for five months, and in the fall of that year came to Fairfax and purchased the old Detweiler restaurant from G. M. Emerson. He owns the building and operates a first-class place. He also owns 160 acres of land in Clay county, Minn.

Mr. Knudson was married Jan. 3, 1910, to Mrs. Marie Boyum, born April 1, 1878, daughter of John and Bertha (Ness) Mundahl, and widow of Ole E. Boyum, a farmer of Bandon township, this county. John Mundahl and his sister live with his aged mother in Toronto, South Dakota. She was born Jan. 14, 1813.

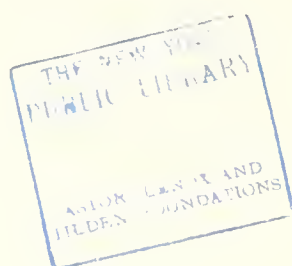
Bertha (Ness) Mundahl came to America with her parents in 1852, the voyage aboard a sailing vessel taking eleven weeks. She died in 1893. By her marriage to Ole E. Boyum, Mrs. Marie (Mundahl) Knudson has two children: Joseph Benjamin, born July 21, 1904; and Ella Constance, born May 13, 1906. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Hans Gunderson, now deceased, was one of the earliest settlers of Wang township, and his name will be remembered as long as the early story of the county is related. He was born in Christiania, Norway, July 6, 1832, and was there reared to manhood. It was in 1866 that he came to America and located in Rochester, Olmsted county, in this state. A year later he found his way to Renville county and secured a homestead of 160 acres in section 28, Wang township. On this homestead he erected a log cabin and started to cultivate the land. He planted groves, developed the farm, went through the privations of the grasshopper time and experienced all the rigors of pioneer life. For five years he lived alone, but in 1873 he married and brought his wife to his primitive abode. Together they labored and, though there were many discouragements and many difficulties to be overcome, they faced life with courage and, in time, were numbered among the most prosperous people in the community. The old log cabin gave place to a slightly frame residence and the straw shack which sheltered their first stock made room for a commodious barn and suitable outbuildings. After a long, successful career as a hardworking farmer, Mr. Gunderson retired in 1907, and moved his family to Sacred Heart village. Inaction, however, did not please him and, in 1910, he returned to the farm and operated it for two years more. Then he moved to Granite Falls, erected a home, and there lived until his lamented death, Dec. 19, 1913. His wife still lives in that village. Her memory of the early days is very vivid and she has many interesting stories to tell of pioneer times when she lived in a log cabin and kept house and raised a family amid the most unfavorable conditions. Mrs. Gunderson was born in 1849 in Norway, her maiden name being Bergit Myrhougen.

Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson have had six children: Marie, Richard, Clara, Hilda, Emma and Carl. Marie married Edward Paulson, of Sacred Heart township, and their children are: Hilma, Elvin, Arthur, Esther, Viola, Leona, Florence and Helen. Richard now lives in Montevideo, this state. He married Laura Bradshaw. Clara married M. J. Larson, of Granite Falls, and they have one child, Berdie. Hilda married S. O. Odegard, of Hawk Creek township, and their children are: Otis and Berdie Idella. Emma conducts a restaurant in Montana. Carl died at the age of eighteen years.



MR. AND MRS. LEOPOLD WOHLMAN
MR. AND MRS. FRED W. WOHLMAN



Leopold Wohlman, a pioneer, was born in Germany, April 22, 1830, there grew to manhood, and learned the trades of machinist and weaver. It was in Germany that he married Hannah Stummer. He left his native country in 1866, coming to the United States by sailing vessel, spending six weeks on the water, and landed at New York port, where he worked for about two years at his trade as machinist. Then he moved with his family to Minnesota for the purpose of establishing a home. They came by rail as far as St. Peter, Minnesota, and then hired a team of horses and drove to the Spurber home on section 3, in Flora township. This was in 1868; and they stayed with the Spurber family until spring. Mr. Wohlman had located a homestead in section 28, in Flora township, securing a tract of 80 acres. During the winter he busied himself by gathering together the logs and materials needed to build a home and in May, 1869, the family moved into the new home. He also built a shed on the side of the house for the cow and calf. He had no money and had borrowed enough to bring his family to Renville county. He had traded a shotgun he had bought in New York city for the cow, and it was two years before he could afford a team of oxen. He earned money for this by working for the farmers in the harvest season. He used this team to break the land, and here he lived until 1898, when he moved to an adjoining 80-acre tract, where he lived for ten years. He had increased this to 160 acres and built part of the present frame house and good barns and a frame granary. He raised a good grade of stock. Mr. Wohlman was an active member of the German Lutheran church and helped organize the Middle Creek German Lutheran church. For two years the services of this church were held in his log house. He was one of the first trustees and was a member of the church board practically all the time that he lived in this section. He now lives in Renville at the age of eighty-five years. His wife, Hannah Stummer, was born Oct. 3, 1830, in Germany, and died in 1907 at the age of seventy-seven years. Seven children were born to these parents: Anna, Mary, Louisa, Leopold (deceased), Fred, Bertha and Clara.

August Beyer was born in Germany, Aug. 8, 1837, and came to Minnesota when he was eighteen years of age. He worked on the farms in the neighborhood of Minneapolis and Rochester and mowed hay near White Bear Lake with a scythe. St. Paul was then but a very small town. He located as a pioneer of Greenwood Prairie, Olmsted county, where he worked for the other farmers and finally located a place of his own in Blue Earth county, where he married. Later they moved to Renville county and located a farm in section 19, Flora township. They are both living in Renville. There were eleven children in the family: Emma, Dorethea, Amanda (deceased), Lizzie, Ida, Ar-

thur, Walter, Ella, Mary (deceased), Charles (deceased), and William (deceased).

Fred W. Wohlman, a well-known farmer of Flora township, was born March 3, 1871, on his present place, then the homestead of his father, Leopold and Hannah (Stummer) Wohlman. He was reared on the home farm and, after his marriage, took charge of the old homestead, a tract of 160 acres, where he has lived ever since. He has increased the home farm to 280 acres and also farms 240 acres in Beaulieu township, Mahanoma county, in the northern part of the state. He carries on general farming and keeps a good grade of stock. He is a shareholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company of Delhi. He has been the treasurer of Flora township for seven years and is a member of the German Lutheran church. Fred W. Wohlman was married Sept. 23, 1898, to Dorethea Beyer, who was born in Blue Earth county, this state, Aug. 30, 1877, daughter of August and Hannah (Rhodes) Beyer. This union has been blessed with eight children: Oscar, born in 1899; George, born June 24, 1902; Esther, born Aug. 8, 1904; Irene, born June 9, 1906; Alfred, born May 24, 1908; Otto, born Nov. 29, 1909; Clara, born Sept. 3, 1911, and Harold, born Aug. 15, 1915.

Gustave A. Schafer was born Feb. 2, 1872, in the old log house on the farm of his father, Henry Schafer, in section 24, Flora township, which farm he now owns. He remained with his parents until he grew to manhood. He has taken great interest in public affairs and held several township offices, having been township assessor for four years and director of the school district for the past ten years. He has served as road overseer for the past two years and has been appointed town clerk. He is a stockholder in the Danube Farmers' Telephone Company. Mr. Schafer was united in marriage Oct. 13, 1899, to Mary Zimmer, born in Flora township, daughter of Peter and Gertrude Zimmer. Mr. and Mrs. Schafer have two children: Arthur and Ruth. The family worship at the Evangelist church.

A. D. Smith and wife, Margaret, came to Minnesota in March, 1886, and settled in the township of Erieson, Renville county, establishing a home there, where they still reside. By neighborly acts and square dealing they acquired the friendship and esteem of a large circle of neighbors and acquaintances, and were always ready to give a helping hand to the uplift of the neighborhood, having assisted very materially in the organization of School District 116, and to the present time (1915), A. D. Smith has been the only clerk and has issued each and every teachers' contract and school order ever issued in the district. He has held several town offices and refused to accept more such offices than he has held. He generally takes great interest in politics and has very materially aided in the defeat of certain

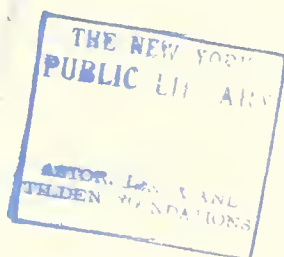
aspiring candidates, both to state and county offices. He is proud of the fact that he did as much, or more, than any other individual in the state, with the single exception of Robert Dunn, to elect the late and lamented John A. Johnson, governor of Minnesota, the first time he was elected. A. D. Smith has been a factor in the defeat of certain undesirable candidates to minor offices in whose interests more dollars' worth of "liquid influence" were "set up" during the campaigns than the salary of the coveted offices amounted to. (Written by A. D. Smith, April 26, 1915, southwest quarter, section 12, range 37, township 116.)

Charles Kenning, an early settler of Renville county, was born in Mecklenburg, Schwerin, Germany, March 28, 1850, son of Henry and Fredricka (Dammann) Kenning, natives of Mecklenburg, who came to America in 1853, located in Buffalo, New York, removed to Toronto in 1854 and in April, 1858, settled in Chaska, Carver county, Minn., where the father engaged in contracting and building, until his death, May 24, 1881. The mother died March 10, 1900. There were four children in the family: Henry, who died Jan. 6, 1900; Charles; Theodore, of Minneapolis; and Fred, of Minneapolis. Charles Kenning was brought to America by his parents and attended the public school and Moravian Academy at Chaska. In the summers of 1860, 1861 and 1862, when still a small boy, he was engaged as an ox teamster by J. A. Dunkle, who operated a barge on the Minnesota river, shipping wood to St. Paul. At the time of the Indian outbreak, in 1862, his team was one of those drafted to haul provisions from Carver to the soldiers in the Indian country. Although a mere lad of twelve years, he remained by his team and was near Hutchinson when the Indians attacked that village. The train was then ordered back to Glencoe, where all the ox teams were discharged. Young Henning then returned to Chaska, and again took up his duties of hauling wood to the river bank. Later he engaged in contracting and building and also conducted a sash and door factory at Chaska for seven years. During this period he helped organize the Chaska Fire Department, and served as chief as long as he lived there. In 1878 he came to Renville county and settled on a farm two miles east of Bird Island, in Melville township, purchasing 320 acres of state land. After six years he sold this and came in 1884 to Osceola township, where he took a homestead of 160 acres in section 18. This was wild prairie land. Here he built a house and made many improvements. This land, by industry and intelligent effort, he has increased to 640 acres, all in sections 7 and 18. In addition to carrying on general diversified farming and making a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep, Yorkshire swine and Pereheron full-blooded and graded horses, he does general contracting and building, confining his efforts largely to erecting farm structures. He

is also a dealer in general farm implements and machinery. His public duties have been many. He served in such offices as treasurer of Melville township until he moved from there. He helped organize School District No. 110 and since that date has served as its clerk. He is an original member, stockholder and present director of the Renville County Fair Association, of which he served as president for fifteen years. He was likewise an original member and president of the Clover Leaf Creamery Association at Osceola township, of which he was president for eight years. As secretary and manager of the Farmers' Elevator at Bird Island, he has done efficient work, and his services as stockholder in the Independent Harvester Company have been highly valued. He helped organize the State Breeders' Association, and was one of its officers until 1913.

Possibly Mr. Kenning takes the greatest pride in the work he has done in connection with the Old Settlers' Association of Renville county. He helped to organize it and served as its secretary for five years, during which time the records were most admirably preserved for future generations. Mr. Kenning was married at Chaska, Sept. 23, 1869, to Henrietta Schraan, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 20, 1850. She died in April, 1885, leaving six children: Henry C., born Aug. 10, 1870, now of Catawba, Wis., engaged as a machinist; Charles, born May 6, 1873, engaged in farming at Independence, North Dakota; Ida, born August 18, 1875, now Mrs. Gustaf Worsch, of Kenyon, Wis.; Henrietta, born April 5, 1877, now the wife of Valentine Schoot, a farmer of Hinckley; Anna, born Nov. 14, 1879, now Mrs. Godfred Schoot, of Hinckley; and Louisa, born Dec. 31, 1884, now the wife of Lee Mack, a farmer of Crookston, Minn. Mr. Kenning was married a second time Sept. 10, 1885, to Louisa Ehrenberg, born in Germany, Oct. 16, 1866, and came to America in 1884. The following children were born to this union: William, born Feb. 12, 1887, now a farmer at Crookston; Louis, born Sept. 28, 1888, a farmer in Kandiyohi county; Frederick, born Feb. 3, 1891; Edwin, born June 27, 1893; Alice, born Sept. 7, 1896; Arthur, born July 26, 1898; Mabel born April 13, 1901; John, born Dec. 25, 1904; Alfred, born Oct. 3, 1908; Milton, born Aug. 24, 1910, and Merten, born Aug. 24, 1910.

James Gaffney, one of the earliest pioneers, was born in County Caven, Ireland, and came to Illinois, from there going to California, by way of Cape Horn. After a year's stay in the mining district there, he returned to Illinois. Next, he moved to Waseca county, Minnesota, in 1858, and located on a farm, where the city of Waseca now stands. The family moved from Waseca county to Rice county and stayed about one year, then they drove with oxen into Renville county. They went up along the Sacred Heart creek and lived there during 1865-66. In the spring of





E. F. GAFFNEY AND FAMILY

1866, Mr. Gaffney located a homestead of 160 acres in section 3, Flora township, where his son, Edmund, now lives. It was all wild prairie land. Here he built a log building, made out of hollow logs called scoop logs. Later he built another log house which had a shingled roof. The first township election of Flora township was held in the first of these log houses. At that time there were about fourteen voters in the township. Mr. Gaffney began to break up the land with his ox team and improve the farm. He was a member of the Catholic church. He died in 1884, at the age of eighty years. He was married in Illinois to Mary Powers, daughter of John Powers, a native of Ireland. Mrs. Gaffney died in 1870, at the age of thirty-seven. Ten children were born to these parents: Anna, George, Catherine, Ellen, John, James, Mary, Joseph, Frank and Edmund.

Edmund F. Gaffney, a prominent man of Flora township, was born in Waseca county, Minn., Feb. 16, 1859, son of James and Mary (Powers) Gaffney. He came to Flora township as a small boy, grew to manhood on the home place, and has since continued to live there. In 1892 he acquired the place, and since then he has added 40 acres to it. He has taken his share in the progress of the community and is an industrious and progressive citizen, widely esteemed by all who know him. Mr. Gaffney was married Jan. 11, 1899, to Mrs. Amelia (Schaffer) Smith, born in Flora township, April 27, 1873, daughter of John and Caroline (Krup) Schaffer. Mr. and Mrs. Gaffney have had three children, Mabel, Kenneth and Leland E. Mabel was born Sept. 24, 1892, was married Oct. 29, 1912, lives with her husband on a homestead near Saco, Montana, and has two children. Kenneth was born Jan. 26, 1906. Leland E. was born Jan. 31, 1900, and died Feb. 23, 1910.

John Schaffer was born in Meeklenburg, Germany, March 17, 1831, and died in 1885. He was twelve years old when he was obliged to earn his own living, his parents having died. He came to the United States and served four years during the Civil war. After the war he located in Flora township, Renville county, where he had preemption claim in section 1. He secured 160 acres and later added 40 acres more. He built a log house and used an ox team to break up the land. Shortly afterwards he married Anna Larson, a native of Norway. She died, leaving two children, Louisa and John. Then he married a second time, to Caroline Krup, born in Germany, Dec. 5, 1841, who is still living at North Redwood. Mr. Schaffer helped organize the township and served on the board of supervisors. The children by this second marriage were: Amelia, Emma, Ida and Amanda.

John Zimmer, a farmer of Flora township, was born in Germany, September 26, 1864, son of Peter and Gertrude Zimmer. His parents were married in Germany and left for America

when John was one and a half years old, coming by sailing vessel and spending four weeks on the water. His father first settled in Wisconsin and farmed there for a time and then left for Minnesota, coming to Renville county, to which place he drove with ox team. He located on a farm here and began farming, using oxen to break up the land. He suffered much from the grasshoppers which destroyed his crops. There were nine children in the family: William, Peter, John, Louie, Michael, Nicholas, Kate, Mary and Anna. He died in 1880 at the age of forty years. His wife married again, to August Olich, there being one child, Adolph, by this union. Adolph and his mother reside at Glencoe, McLeod county.

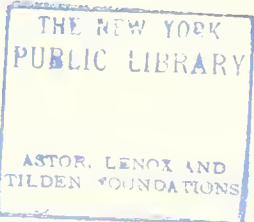
John Zimmer grew to manhood in Renville county and began to work for himself at the age of twenty-seven years. He worked out among the farmers for about a year and then located 160 acres of land in Flora township. It was all wild prairie land with no buildings nor hedge. He has improved the farm and built modern buildings and a modern house with steam heat and electric lights. He raises a good grade of stock.

Mr. Zimmer was married April 29, 1892, to Anna Brandt, born in Germany, Oct. 3, 1874, and came to America when she was an infant. Her parents, Charles and Amelia (Manthei) Brandt came in 1875. They settled in Nicollet county and later in Renville county, locating in Troy township, where he lived until his death in 1913, at the age of sixty-six years. His wife is still living at the age of sixty-two years. There were ten children in the family: Anna, William, Amelia, Herman, Charles, Frank, John, Mary, Esther and Clarence. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmer have three children: Elsie, born Jan. 15, 1894; Selma, born March 5, 1897; and Clifford, born Sept. 20, 1898; all at home.

John Larkin, Sr., now deceased, was one of these early pioneers of which Renville county can well be proud. He was born in Cloan, County Kilkenny, Ireland, in 1825, and there received his education and grew to manhood. At the age of eighteen years in 1843 he set sail for America and located in Massachusetts, where he was married Sept. 6, 1852, to Mary D'Arcy, who was born at Tullow, County Carlow, Ireland, Nov. 25, 1830. In the fall of 1867 Mr. Larkin and his wife came to Minnesota, living for about three weeks at St. Peter and then coming to Renville county, where they arrived in December. He secured a homestead of eighty acres in section 18, Flora township. It was all wild land without any improvements whatever. He at once set at work to improve his new home, built a log cabin to live in and a rude shed to shelter the stock. The hard winters and heavy storms, together with the grasshopper plague, were severe drawbacks, but by undaunted courage and hard work, Mr. Larkin in time prospered and became one of the leading representa-



MR. AND MRS. JOHN LARKIN, SR.



tive farmers of the community. He built up a good home and a fine farm. He served as justice of the peace and for a time the postoffice was kept in his residence. He died Sept. 6, 1892. Mrs. Larkin remained on the farm until 1912, when she removed to the city of Renville where, despite her advanced age of eighty-five years, she is still hale and hearty, and enjoys telling of the early days' happenings in Renville county. Mr. and Mrs. Larkin were the parents of eleven children: Joseph L., born July 4, 1852, died May 16, 1854; Henry, born Dec. 6, 1854, died April 17, 1857; Edward, born Nov. 4, 1856, now of Graeville, Minn., married Nov. 24, 1887, to Marry Powell, and father of ten children: Edward, Edna, Nellie, Anna, John, Frank, William, Henry, Rose, and one who died in infancy; Mary, born Oct. 28, 1858, now widow of William Foster, and now residing at Foley, Benton county, Minn., and mother of seven children: John, Mary, Margaret, William (deceased), Charles, Robert and Helen W.; John, born August 25, 1860, a farmer of Flora township, married to Margaret W. Garvey, and has eight children: Wilfred (deceased), Francis, William, Richard, Bernard, John, Helen and Joseph; Margaret Clara, born Oct. 9, 1862, a successful teacher of Redwood Falls; Lawrence H., born Nov. 9, 1864, now of Renville; Ellen H., born July 31, 1867, now a bookkeeper at Princeton, Minn.; William P., born Nov. 11, 1869, a farmer at Castor, Alberta, Canada; Joseph H., born April 14, 1872, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; and Kate, born June 27, 1875, and died June 30, 1875. The family church is the Roman Catholic.

Joseph H. Larkin was born on the old homestead of his father in section 18, Flora township, April 14, 1872, son of John Larkin. He grew to manhood there, receiving his education in the district school and the high school at Redwood Falls. At the age of seventeen years he began teaching at Redwood, where he taught for three months. The next six years were spent in teaching in his own district, No. 18, in Flora township. Then he began farming on his father's farm and also across the road in the same section. There were 157 acres in this tract, to which he added fifteen acres more. He farmed here for several years and then became a thresher, having two outfits and crews, and for thirteen years traveled all over Renville county during the harvest season. He is a member of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Renville, having been a director for the past two years, and held the position of vice-president the two years previous.

Mr. Larkin has held the office of township assessor and has served on the school board for three years. He is a member of the Catholic church and for the past three years has served as trustee of that church. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

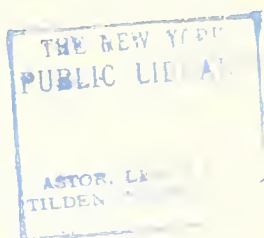
Peter Binger, a thrifty and industrious farmer of Flora township, was born in Germany, Nov. 6, 1840, son of Valentine and Dorethea (Laubel) Binger. There were three children in the family: Adam, Andrew and Peter. Andrew and Peter left Germany in 1866 and reached New York after a nine days' voyage. They remained in New York until 1868, when they went to Minnesota. Peter had learned the trade of a cabinetmaker in Germany and had followed that trade in New York. He located a homestead of 80 acres in section 20, Flora township, in 1868, where his home now stands. The land had been broken and there had been an old shanty on it, but it was burned at the time of the Indian uprising in 1862. He made a rude barn by driving stakes into the ground and covering the roof with straw. He had one ox team and at first borrowed a government wagon at St. Peter, but finally made one with wooden wheels. Beaver Falls was the nearest market and the grain was taken there to be ground. He now has three 80-acre tracts and has erected new buildings and raises good stock. He is a member of the school board and of the German Lutheran church. He helped build the church and was one of its trustees for several years.

Mr. Binger was married to Sophia Masemann in New York, and they have had ten children, eight of whom are living: Louis (deceased); Edward (deceased); William, a farmer of Emmet township; August, a farmer of Flora township; Dora, now Mrs. Gustave Mack, of Flora township; Bernhard, a farmer of Flora township; Henry, of Spokane, Wash.; Pauline, now Mrs. Thos. Zapf, of Spokane, Wash.; Herman, at home, farming with his father; and Marie, at home.

Charles F. Schafer was born in Indiana, Jan. 9, 1862, son of Henry Schafer, a pioneer of Renville county. He was five years old when his parents came to Rice county and eight years old when they moved to Renville county. Here he grew to manhood, attending the district school in the log house, and at the age of nineteen began working on the farms of the neighbor. Then he went to Rice county, where he remained for about one year, and then he came back to Renville county, where he worked out on the farms for about nine months. Then he bought his present place, a tract of 80 acres in section 23, in Flora township. He improved his land, built a granary with a hay roof, and also a barn. He lived in the barn for about two months before his house was completed. He has now increased his farm to 120 acres and also owns another farm of 120 acres in section 25, and 40 acres in section 13. He raises a good grade of stock and has some fruit. Mr. Schafer was married March 22, 1889, to Minnie Ukert, born in Germany, July 16, 1860, and brought to America by her foster parents in 1862. They were four weeks on the ocean and came to Wisconsin, where they remained until 1883.



PETER BINGER AND FAMILY





JOHN SCHLUETER AND FAMILY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

when they came to Minnesota and located in Flora township, section 22, where they secured 80 acres. Here the father died at the age of sixty-six in 1902, and his wife in 1913, at the age of seventy-six. Mr. and Mrs. Schafer have four children: Laura, born Nov. 22, 1889, graduated from the Renville high school, and is now a teacher; Walter was born Sept. 7, 1892; Earl was born Oct. 7, 1897, and Florence was born Feb. 8, 1904.

L. L. Palmer, hotel man and cattle dealer, was born in Switzerland, May 5, 1859, son of Jacob P. Palmer, who died Oct. 19, 1897. His mother, Anna Palmer, died Feb. 23, 1906, at the age of eighty-six years. He came to this country in 1865 and located six miles from New Ulm. He started his career as a cattle buyer at the age of sixteen, and in the forty years that have since passed has engaged more or less in that line. His first experience was in the employ of Peter Orth, of Redwood Falls, Minn., for whom he worked two years. Then he worked in a similar capacity for five years for M. Epple, of New Ulm. Next he operated a roller skating rink at Lake Benton for a year. Then, for several years, he engaged in cattle dealing at New Ulm in partnership with his brother, Jacob. In 1889 he came to Fairfax and started a hotel career which lasted over twenty years. He found his quarters too small and later purchased the Windsor Hotel, which he operated for many years. The hotel is a home-like place, has eighteen rooms, steam heat, electric lights, bath and other conveniences and is well patronized. Mrs. Palmer owns 320 acres of land near Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Mr. Palmer was married Oct. 21, 1886, to Minnie Vogelpohl, who was born Sept. 25, 1862, daughter of Herman and Louisa (Schroer) Vogelpohl, farmers of Brown county. The father died in 1901 at the age of seventy-two. The mother is now living at New Ulm. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Palmer has taught sewing school for thirty years, and in that time had 648 pupils in New Ulm and Fairfax. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have had four children: Lunita, now Mrs. David Rondahl, born Nov. 20, 1889; Viola, a teacher at Searles, Minn., born Aug. 2, 1891; Roman, born Sept. 20, 1901, a student at the Dr. Martin Luther College, at New Ulm; and Arthur, a twin of Lunita, who died at the age of four days.

David Rondahl, proprietor of the Topic Theater, Fairfax, was born in Stockholm, Sweden. He came to this country in 1909. In 1912 he reached Fairfax, worked a time in a mercantile establishment, and later opened the Topic Theater. He has worked hard, has built up a splendid business and conducts a creditable place. Mr. Rondahl was married Feb. 2, 1915, to Lunita Palmer, daughter of L. L. and Minnie (Vogelpohl) Palmer.

John Schlueter, an estimable farmer of Flora township, was born in Herzhorn, Holstein, Germany, Feb. 20, 1855, son of Claus

and Rebecca (Fitz) Schlueter. The father died in Germany, and the mother came to America, bringing her son, John, in 1857. She was married at Buffalo, N. Y., at once upon her arrival to Francis Schumacher, later known as Francis Shoemaker. John Schlueter spent his early boyhood in Le Sueur county, this state, and came to Renville county with his family in 1866. As a young man he worked as a farm hand. In 1882 he went to North Dakota and took a claim of 160 acres in Sargeant county, where he proved up and remained for two summers. In 1878 he located in Henryville township, this county, and bought 160 acres of wild state land in section 6. He put up a shanty, broke the sod with the aid of an ox team, and gradually erected substantial buildings and brought the farm to a high stage of cultivation. In 1902 he sold out and bought a farm of 395 acres in Flora township, a part of which was the old homestead. He has remodeled the house, erected a barn and a machine shed, and made many other improvements. He now carries on general farming and stock-raising. While in Henryville township, Mr. Schlueter served on the town board. He is now a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at North Redwood, and in the Redwood Falls Rural Telephone Co. The family faith is that of the Evangelical Association.

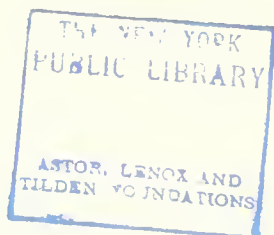
John Schlueter was married May 7, 1885, to Christina Antonsen, born in Le Sueur county, this state, Dec. 26, 1862, daughter of John and Louisa (Kahle) Antonsen, natives respectively of Denmark and Germany, who came to this country, were married in Missouri, and settled in Le Sueur county, where they engaged in farming. In the Antonsen family there were nine children: Caroline (deceased); Mary, of Le Sueur county; Minnie, of Anoka county; John (deceased); Louisa (deceased); Rachael, of Colorado; Peter, of Sibley county; Fred, of Buffalo Lake, this county; and Christine, of Flora township, this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Schlueter have eight children: Floyd F. is at home. He was born Aug. 9, 1887. Rebecca L. was born June 4, 1889. She married Gustave Oelke, a farmer of Cooperstown, North Dakota. Fred, born May 14, 1893, and Esther, born March 12, 1898, are at home. Herman was born May 1, 1896, and died Sept. 26, 1896. John H. was born March 31, 1886 and died Sept. 15, 1886. Henry J. was born Jan. 31, 1891, and died April 15, 1891. Laura was born Nov. 9, 1894, and died Aug. 3, 1895. Arthur, twin of Esther, born March 12, 1898, died April 26, 1898.

Elias H. Anderson, a progressive farmer of Wang township, was born Aug. 13, 1838, in Norway, son of Andres Evenson. He received his early education and training in Norway. At the age of twenty he became a teacher, and after four years of this work he took a two-year course at a seminary, after which he resumed his work as teacher at the place where he had been be-



E. H. ANDERSON



fore. After four years he moved to another district and here, in addition to his work, he was also the choir leader of the church for several years. He was always a very strong politician and held a position similar to that of judge of probate in America. On two occasions he was a candidate for the Storting or Parliament, but was defeated by a very close margin, and at one time this caused a rejection of the election, and as it was too late for a new election no representative was sent from that district that year.

Being a progressive man and not finding conditions as congenial as he wished, he decided to locate in America, where he had been before and where the opportunities for his progress were more numerous. He came to America in 1889 with his two boys, his wife having died. His oldest son was sent to college and his youngest remained with his father. In 1890 he bought 40 acres of land in section 35, in Wang township, for \$600. There were no buildings on this place. Adjoining his forty acres of land there lived a young widow who had 80 acres of land. An agreement was made between the two to work the 120 acres together, the result of this agreement being that she became his wife.

Mr. Anderson has been president of the Hawk Creek Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, of Sacred Heart, which includes six townships. He has been the secretary of the Farmers' Elevator Company, of Sacred Heart, and treasurer for the school district for the past fifteen years. While connected with the elevator company, he also had charge of the ordering of the supplies needed by the farmers. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and has been the deacon ever since he came to this township. He is also a member of the school committee of that church and of the revision committee.

His first wife was born May 7, 1844, and died Sept. 28, 1887. She was one of the pupils attending his first school. She left the district and engaged in the study of dressmaking and housekeeping and, after perfecting herself in those branches, she went to Bergen, where she entered the state school for nurses. Here she completed the course for nurses and returned to her home a professional nurse and expected to work as such. However, when she returned she found her former teacher still there, and after a short time they were married. To this union were born several children, only two of whom grew to manhood. They are Ingvald Legnus and Berner Legnus. Ingvald is cashier in the bank in Brice lyn, Faribault county, Minnesota, and Berner is cashier in Russell, Lyon county, Minnesota.

His second wife was Mrs. Olaus Rude, formerly Margont Arons. She was born in Norway and had one child by her first marriage. By Mr. Anderson's second marriage there are five children: Olaf, born May 21, 1891; Anna Pauline, born June 18, 1893; Ed-

win Helberg, born April 22, 1895; Emma Margret, born Dec. 3, 1897; and Alma Bolette, born July 24, 1900.

Hans Berg, a well-known farmer of Wang township, was born March 11, 1837, in Norway. He left Norway in 1867 and came to America in a sailing vessel, landing at Quebec, and from there went on to Rochester, Olmsted county, where he had friends. He began working on farms, and after about two or three years he also worked on the railroad for a time, but finally came to Renville county, making the journey with an ox team. Here he secured a homestead, locating across the road from where he is now living, in section 4, Hawk Creek township. On this tract of 80 acres he built a log house, 14 by 16 feet. Meetings were often held in this log house. He also built a barn of sod and logs. He had two steers, and when one of them died it was a long time before he could get another. Times were not very prosperous and two years passed by before he felt that he could afford to have a cow. After four or five years the log house was replaced by a small frame building, 12 by 14 feet, which is now a part of the present house, additions having been made. He also bought 80 acres more across the road in Wang township, section 34.

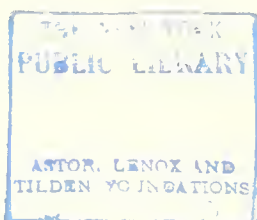
Mr. Berg carries on general farming and raises good stock. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Sacred Heart. He has served on the school board and is a member of the Norwegian Hawk Creek Lutheran church, which he helped build.

In 1873 Mr. Berg was married to Marit Stavne, born Jan. 28, 1836, in Norway, the daughter of Ole and Marit (Bankal) Stavne, who both died in that country. She came to America with her brother and sister in 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Berg have had two children. George O., born Feb. 13, 1875, is now professor in Greek at St. Olof's College, Northfield, Minnesota; Annie, born Sept. 15, 1876, has been a teacher, but is now at home.

Christian A. Evenson, a venerable and respected farmer of Wang township, was born in Norway, Sept. 29, 1843, son of Anders and Pauleta (Elarson) Anderson. The family name in Norway was Anderson, but on coming to the United States he took the name of his grandfather, who was named Even, thus making Evenson. His parents died in Norway. They had five children: Hogan, Elias N., Christian, Thomas and Lena. Christian A. was the first to come to America, in 1867; Elias, in 1882, and Lena in 1887. The other two children died in Norway. In the spring of 1867, Christian Evenson left Norway in a sailing vessel, landing at Quebec after a twelve week voyage. From there he went to Lansing, Michigan, not being able to go further on account of lack of funds. While on the boat, running between Quebec and Michigan, a fire broke out, which greatly frightened the passengers. At the time, the cause of the fire could not be



C. A. EVENSON AND FAMILY



ascertained, but a long time afterward it was discovered that it was caused by whiskey. At Lansing, Mr. Evenson decided to find work on a farm and started out into the country. On the road he met a farmer who needed help. As Mr. Evenson could not speak English and as the farmer was German, they had rather a hard time understanding each other, but finally came to an agreement and Mr. Evenson worked there for three months. The next spring he went back to Lansing because he wished to be near the water. In March he worked about two weeks on one of the steamers. Then he took charge of a raft of logs and for some time made several trips even as far as St. Louis. This was during the springs, and during the summers he worked in the harvest fields. He planned to go to Texas, but one day met a fellow countryman who advised him to go to Indiana, which he did. On his arrival he was hired by an Irishman to work in the harvest fields. The next year he worked in the harvest fields in Illinois, and the next in Iowa. Then he took passage up the Mississippi river as far as Winona and from there went by rail as far as Rochester, where he worked in the harvest fields. He returned to Iowa and remained there for five years, and then he came to Minnesota again and located on a homestead in section 34, in Wang township, of 80 acres. There was a little log house on the place. He paid \$500 for the land and also paid the expense of having the claim filed at the land office, as this had not been properly filed before. He was not able to have a pair of steers for about a year, and then he began breaking up the land. He has now increased his farm to 220 acres and has built a fine modern house and barn. He raises a good breed of stock.

Mr. Evenson has been one of the supervisors of Wang township for three years and has been chairman of supervisors for two years. He has also been township assessor for two years, and has served on the school board for nineteen years. He is a member of the Farmers' Elevator Company and has been one of its officers for many years. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company, and has been public auctioneer for twenty-five years. Mr. Evenson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and was one of the organizers of this church and helped build it. He has been a deacon for the past twenty-five years and is now the choir leader, a position in which he has served for forty-three years past. During his first year in Minnesota he was married to Pernilla Thoreson, who was born in Norway. Eleven children have been born to these parents. Those living are: Thomas, Carl, Otto, Sigvert, Amel, Harold, Anna, Marie and Clarissa.

Ferdinand H. Breitreutz, a prosperous farmer of Flora township, was born Nov. 22, 1865, in Germany, son of Ferdinand and Anna (Strauch) Breitreutz, who came to the United States by

a sailing vessel with their two children, Ferdinand and Matilda, in 1867, being sixteen weeks on the ocean. They landed at New York and went to Wisconsin, where they stopped a few weeks and then moved to Le Sueur county, Minnesota, where they settled on a farm of 40 acres. In 1870 the family came to Renville county, coming in a covered wagon drawn by oxen. The father had been to Renville county the year before and had located a homestead of 80 acres and a preemption claim of 80 acres in section 28, Flora township. They lived in the wagon until the cabin was built, 14 by 20 feet, made of logs, and began breaking up the land with the oxen. The early meetings of the German Lutheran church were held in this cabin, and Mr. Breitkreutz was an active worker in the church and Sunday school. When in Le Sueur county, he had taught in the German parochial school during the winter. He helped organize, and was a trustee of the Middle Creek Lutheran church of Flora township. He improved his farm and built a good substantial frame house, the frame house and log cabin still standing across the road from the fine modern house erected by his son on the farm. He prospered and added to this farm until he had 600 acres of land and kept a good grade of stock, having brought his hogs, cows and sheep with him from Le Sueur county. In those early days his wife spun the wool into yarn and wove cloth. He died in 1891 at the age of fifty-four years, and his wife is still living at the age of seventy-five years. They had six children: Matilda, Ferdinand, Emma, Hulda, Paul and Anna. Ferdinand H. Breitkreutz grew to manhood on his father's farm. He took charge of 240 acres of the home farm and has gradually enlarged it, until now he has 870 acres. He has built a modern house and barn and raises excellent stock. Mr. Breitkreutz has been supervisor of the township for the past twenty years and has also held the office of treasurer. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Breitkreutz was married in 1905 to Augusta Schmidt, daughter of Christian Frederick and Johanna Wilhelmina (Heimke) Schmidt, pioneers of Renville county, who left Germany in 1862, first coming to Wisconsin, then, in 1868, located in Flora township, Renville county. They came to the county by team and brought three children with them. Mr. Schmidt secured a homestead of 80 acres in section 24, where he built a log cabin and improved the place, at his death having 480 acres of land. He was born Nov. 17, 1836, and died March 11, 1908, at the age of seventy-one, and his wife was born Nov. 15, 1839, and died May 25, 1911, at the age of seventy-one years. Their children were: Herman, Richard, Ida, Reinhold, Martha, Anne, Bertha, Arnold, Frederick (deceased), and Augusta. Mr. and Mrs. Breitkreutz have five children: Herman, Alfred, Rhenhart, Herbert and Gerhart.

Adolph Kaiser, a progressive farmer of Winfield township, was born July 12, 1863, in Clinton county, Iowa, son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Green) Kaiser. His parents were natives of Germany, coming from Prussia, in 1866. They moved to Clinton county, Iowa, with their two children, Gus and Emma, and located on a farm of 80 acres in that county. The father was a tailor by trade and knew very little about farming. The farm he secured was an old one and there was only an old shanty on the place. The family lived here for eight years and then moved to Johnson county, Iowa, where they bought 120 acres of prairie land in Lincoln township. Here they built a frame house and began to break the land, using an ox team, living here till the father's death, in 1886, at the age of sixty-four. His wife died at the age of fifty-seven. They were both members of the Presbyterian church. There were six children: Emma, Gus, Hermina, Minnie, Adolph and Agnes.

Adolph Kaiser was educated in the country schools of Johnson county. After a time he began farming and continued in this work in Johnson county for three years, then he moved to Minnesota, locating in Renville county, in Bird Island township. He bought a prairie farm of 120 acres in section 29 in 1888, which was entirely wild land and had no buildings. Here he built a house and, in a short time, bought 80 acres more and still later 91 acres more, living on this farm until 1899, when he sold out and came to Winfield township, buying 160 acres of land. There were no buildings nor improvements made upon this land, so Mr. Kaiser put up buildings and made fine improvements. He keeps a fine grade of stock, raising Shorthorn cattle, and does general farming. While in Bird Island township, Mr. Kaiser served for three years as a member of the school board, and as member of the township board. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Danube and helped organize it, being at one time one of the directors. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Telephone Co. Since his coming to Winfield township he has held several township offices. He is also a member of the Presbyterian church. Feb. 8, 1888, Mr. Kaiser was united in marriage to Sadie Kile, born in Muscatine county, Iowa, April 10, 1864. She was the daughter of Jerry and Elizabeth (Lee) Kile. Her father was born Oct. 30, 1817, in Pennsylvania, his father being one of the early German settlers of that state. He died Nov. 28, 1888. Her mother was born in Ohio, Dec. 20, 1834, the Lee family being one of the early families of Ohio. After five years of married life, Mr. and Mrs. Kile left their home in Ohio and moved to Iowa, taking up a prairie farm in Muscatine county. Here they built a frame house and spent their remaining days. They had eight children: Madison, Mary, George, Sadie, Lydia, Minnie, Callie and Louis.

Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser have had four children: Fred; Blanche, now Mrs. Frank Kuether, of Damube; George, and Mabel, who died Oct. 9, 1903.

Ernest J. Miller, son of Henry and Augusta (Pohl) Miller, was born in Steele county, Minnesota, Feb. 11, 1874. Henry Miller was born in Germany and came to America in 1845. He came to Renville county in 1897 and engaged in farming, locating in Norfolk township, where he remained until his death, in 1908, at the age of eighty-four years. His wife is still living at the age of seventy-five years. Ernest J. Miller began renting a farm in Norfolk in 1898. In 1905 he bought 80 acres in section 18, the western half of the northeast quarter, Norfolk township, where he still lives. He has built a fine eight-room house and a barn, 24 by 40 by 14, both buildings being erected in 1912. He raises Holstein cattle and does dairying. Mr. Miller is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Olivia and also of the Luce Electric Line. He served as postmaster for one year and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and Modern Woodmen of America at Olivia. Mr. Miller was married Feb. 2, 1898, to Selma Fogelquist, born March 3, 1880, daughter of John Fogelquist, a farmer of Saskatehewan, Canada, aged seventy years, well known as one of the pioneers of Waseca county, Minnesota. They have four children: Le Roy, born July 29, 1899; Homer, born April 28, 1906; Ivan, born April 28, 1911; and Dale, born March 28, 1914.

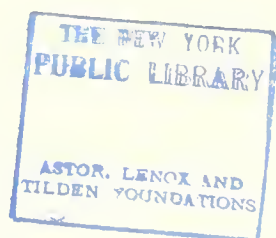
Frank H. Manderfeld, Kingman township, was born May 22, 1871, in Brown county, Minnesota, son of John and Katherine (Thrach) Manderfeld. When twenty-three years old, Frank left home and went to Brown county, where he rented a farm and remained for four years. He then purchased 124 acres in section 3, Kingman township, where he now owns 408 acres. In 1913 he built a modern eight-room house. He is an enthusiast on the subject of blooded stock and owns nineteen head of registered Shorthorns and 125 registered Duroc Jersey hogs. For three years he was on the township board and for six years has been a director of School District No. 82. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator of Bird Island. He is a member of the Catholic church and the Catholic Order of Foresters. Mr. Manderfeld was married Feb. 25, 1894, to Caroline Manderfeld, born Jan. 12, 1872, the daughter of Anton and Annie (Holm) Manderfeld. They have six children: Lydia, Roman, Elsie, Elden, Loretta, Anthony. John Manderfeld, born in Germany, came to America with his parents in 1855 and settled in Brown county. His wife, Katherine (Thrach) Manderfeld, died in 1877 at the age of twenty-six years. Mr. Manderfeld is a retired farmer, aged seventy-two years, and is living at New Ulm. Anton Manderfeld was born in Germany and came to America in 1855. He



FRANCIS SHOEMAKER'S LOG CABIN IN 1868



F. M. SHOEMAKER'S FARM RESIDENCE



married Annie Holm and made his home in Brown county, where he resided until his death, in 1897, at the age of 52 years. His wife died in 1896, at the age of 42 years.

Francis Shoemaker, one of the earliest pioneers, one of the first county commissioners, and for many years the leading resident of Flora, was born in Holstein, Germany, Dec. 22, 1817. At the age of fourteen years he set out as a sailor and continued for about fifteen years, touching at many important ports in various parts of the world. For a while he was first mate of the vessel "Northerner." Then he decided to go to the mining camps of California and become a gold digger. After spending six years in California he went to New York by way of Cape Horn, and from there came to Minnesota, where he obtained a preemption claim two and a half miles east of what was known as Le Sueur Center, walking to the place from Faribault. He knew nothing about farming and went back to Germany to get some of his relatives to come and help him. He brought back with him twenty-two people, most of whom were relatives. Among the number who came from Germany was his future wife, whom he married at Buffalo, New York. As the Civil war broke out at this time several of them enlisted in the Union army. Mr. Shoemaker built a log house and cleared 40 acres. In 1865 he came to Renville county and located a homestead in sections 1 and 2, 80 acres being secured in each, in Flora township. As the Homestead Act was not yet decided upon, he took a preemption claim, afterwards relinquishing it and taking the land as a homestead. He drove over from Le Sueur with a horse team, bringing his wife and six children, John Schlueter, a step son, by his wife's former marriage, Francis, Herman, Celia, Martha and Elsby. In Flora township two more children were born, Henry and Minnie. He had located this land a year before the family came and had built a rude shack into which they moved, and where they lived until the next summer, when he built a log house, one of the first to be built in the county after the Indian massacre. It is still standing. It was 16 by 22 feet, with a board floor and clap-board roof, made of native lumber worn down instead of being planed. Here he lived until 1890, when he moved to North Redwood, where he died. He owned 400 acres of land at the time of his death and had built a modern frame building on his farm and improved it in many ways. Mr. Shoemaker was greatly interested in public affairs and held many public offices. He helped organize the township, school and county, and was one of the first county commissioners of the new county. He was judge of probate one term. He held the office of township clerk for about twenty years and served on the school board. He was one of the organizers of the old Grange and was also a member of the I. O. O. F. of Redwood Falls. He was a member of the German

Evangelical church and helped to organize it. He died at North Redwood, Feb. 26, 1901, at the age of seventy-four years, two months and four days. His wife is still living at North Redwood, at the age of eighty-two years.

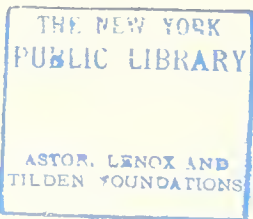
Francis M. Shoemaker, one of the prominent and progressive men of Flora township, was born in Le Sueur county, Minnesota, Oct. 14, 1858, son of Francis and Rebecca (Fitz) Shoemaker. He was about eight years old when his parents moved to Renville county and here he has since remained. He learned the trades of carpenter and engineer, but has devoted the greater part of his life to farming, coming from the home place directly to his present farm. When he located on this place it consisted of a tract of 180 acres in sections 2 and 3, Flora township, forty of which were preempted and forty purchased. He has greatly improved and developed the place and now has a splendid estate of 250 acres on which he has erected a modern home and many suitable and commodious buildings. In addition to this he owns land in Dakota. Mr. Shoemaker carries on general farming on an extensive and successful scale and makes a specialty of raising good Belgian horses and Holstein cattle. Being interested in agricultural progress, he is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company, of Delhi, and the present president and one of the charter members of Flora Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which covers a territory of sixteen townships. He is at present supervisor of Flora township and served for ten years as township assessor and as clerk for seven years. He has also held office of school clerk for twenty years. Mr. Shoemaker is a member of the A. O. U. W. He is a prominent communicant of the Evangelical Association church and was on the building committee of the church, built in 1911, which is said to be the finest church of that denomination in a country district in the state.

Mr. Shoemaker was united in marriage April 5, 1888, to Regina Dryer, born in Flora township, April 30, 1867, daughter of Henry and Regina Dryer. Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker have three children: Francis H., of New London, Wis., a traveling salesman; Vern W., who is at home; and Crystal, a student at the Redwood Falls high school. The children have all received a good education. Vern completed the four years' course in the Northwestern College at Naperville, Ill., in three years. Crystal has been especially interested in local history and is a fluent writer. When prizes were offered in 1912 for the best essays on various phases of Renville county history, she won the second prize of \$10. She is the author of the article on Flora township, which appears in this work.

Henry P. Serbus, a successful farmer of Henryville township, was born in Brown county, Minn., Aug. 29, 1873, son of John and Rosa (Bertek) Serbus. Henry Serbus remained on the home



F. M. SHOEMAKER AND FAMILY



farm and after his father's death in 1897 took charge of the farm, remaining there until 1899, when he bought 160 acres of land in the northeast quarter, section 26, of Henryville township. He has developed this farm and has erected a fine monolithic concrete silo, a good barn, chicken house and hog house. He raises the large type of Yorkshire hogs which are registered, and feeds one car each of cattle and hogs for the market every year. He has served as township constable for five years and is a member of the Renville County Swine Breeders' Association and township director of same. He is of the Catholic faith. Mr. Serbus was married Nov. 24, 1896 to Mary Kubesh, born Aug. 15, 1875, daughter of John and Josephine (Moravitz) Kubesh. Mr. Kubesh, a retired farmer of Olivia, came to America in 1855, moved to Le Sueur county, in 1882 came to Henryville township and then moved to Olivia in 1911, where he has lived ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Serbus have the following children: Henry, Jr., born June 11, 1898; Anton, born March 15, 1900; Beatrice, born Nov. 1, 1902; Angela, born Oct. 8, 1905; Peter, born April 1, 1908; Bessie, born March 6, 1910; Helen, born Aug. 21, 1912, and also her twin, Hattie; and Mildred, born Oct. 29, 1914.

Timothy Hurley, the real estate and insurance man of Bird Island, was born March 26, 1879, in Brandon township, Renville county, the son of James and Johanna (Farrell) Hurley. He remained at home until he was of age then entered the grain business. He now deals in land and sells insurance. He is secretary of the Democratic county committee and a member of the Commercial Club.

James Hurley, born in Ireland, married Johanna Farrell, who was also born in the Emerald Isle. She died in 1909 at the age of 69. Mr. Hurley came to America in 1852, coming to Minnesota in 1865, when he located at Rochester where he remained five years. He then homesteaded on the northwest quarter of section 18 in Bandon township. From time to time he purchased other land until he owned 1,000 acres. He did a land business and general farming until 1900 when he retired to Bird Island where he now lives.

William Jungers was born in Germany in 1827, and at the age of eighteen came to America with his parents and located in New York. He married in New York and came to Goodhue county, Minn., in 1865. His wife died in 1868 at Red Wing. They began life in this new county in a log cabin on Hay creek and with their oxen carried on farming. The land was covered with timber when he came and there were no roads. He cleared up the place and lived there seventeen years, when he moved to Nicollet county where he spent the rest of his life. He was married three times. By the first wife there were the following children: Adam, Kate, Mary, John, May, Helen and Michael.

By the second wife there were Teresa and an infant who died. By the third wife, who is still living there were the following: Peter, Christian, Anna, Charles, Joseph, Frank, Benjamin and Elizabeth. He was a member of the Catholic church.

Michael Jungers was born in New York state, April 17, 1864, son of William and Mary (Redding) Jungers. He received his education in Goodhue county and later located in Renville county. For a time he rented a farm and then purchased the present place of 160 acres, there being no improvements. He has since erected modern buildings, and raises good stock and has added 40 acres to his farm. He has been chairman of the township board for twelve years and secretary of the Farmers' Insurance Company for eighteen years. He is president of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Bird Island and school clerk and is also a member of the Stock Breeders' Association. He is a member of the Catholic church. He was married Oct. 26, 1887, to Catherine Lafontaine, born at Lake Superior, April 30, 1864, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Klass) Lafontaine. The father was a native of Belgium and came to America at the age of fifteen, being a poor boy, and went to Washington county, Wisconsin, where he worked on the farms and in the mines. He now lives in Mankato. He was married in Wisconsin shortly before coming to Minnesota, and in 1869 located in Nicollet county on a farm. The children born were Nicholas, John, Anna, Mary, Liza, Margaret, Jennie and Catherine. Mr. and Mrs. Jungers have the following children: William, born Aug. 1, 1888, who married Tillie Girg and lives on a farm at Sleepy Eye, having one child, Myrlin; Edward, born Nov. 7, 1891; Leonard, born Oct. 13, 1904.

Alex. J. Richardson, a leading public man of Bird Island, was born in Rochester, New York, son of Joseph and Lydia B. (Reed) Richardson, Dec. 23, 1865, was brought to Glencoe, this state, in 1872, and in 1884 to Bird Island, where two years later he became manager of the Richardson & Co. store. Though not a seeker of public office he has been called to serve on the village council of Bird Island for six years and as its mayor for two years. For ten years he was clerk of the Bird Island school board. He is now a director of the Renville County State Bank, at Bird Island. Aside from his prosperous business interests and his holdings in the village he owns several valuable farms scattered throughout the county, and is in every way regarded as a successful man. Mr. Richardson was married June 16, 1896, to Jessie E. Burlingame who was born June 16, 1879. Her father, Anson Burlingame, died in Martin county this state at the age of sixty-six. Her mother, Maria A. Hill, after his death married G. S. Livermore, upon whose decease she took up her home with Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, with whom she now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson have one daughter, Lucile, born Oct. 14,

1907. Joseph Richardson, successful business man and organizer, was born in Maine, June 4, 1822, and there lived until the age of twenty, when he went to Boston, Mass., and engaged in the produce business a few years. Then he went to Rochester, New York. There he organized and for ten years served as president of the Vacuum Oil Co., now merged in the Standard Oil Co. In 1872 he came to Glencoe, Minn., and engaged in the general merchandise and grain business in the firm of A. H. Reed & Co. In 1884 he organized the firm of J. Richardson & Co., with headquarters at Bird Island, though he himself continued to reside in Glencoe until his death, June 3, 1905. His wife, Lydia B. Reed, was born Nov. 11, 1828, and died in January, 1897. The firm has continued to grow and prosper. When it was organized Joseph Richardson was president; W. J. Richardson, M. D., of Fairmont, Minn., vice president; and C. M. Tift, of Glencoe, Minn., secretary. The presidency is now vacant and Alex. J. Richardson is the treasurer. Originally the firm owned a grain elevator, a store, and two creameries, but now confines its activities to the store at Bird Island, where they have a large business which is constantly increasing in importance.

James O'Neill was born in Ireland in 1831. Here he grew up to manhood and married Catherine Flanagan. This marriage resulted in ten children: John, James, Charles, Stephen, William, Patrick, Ellen, Margaret, Catherine and May. He and his family came to Quebec where he remained a few years and then moved to Rochester, and later to Northfield in 1859, where he engaged in farming. The oldest sons, John and James, served in the Civil war returning home in 1865. The family moved to Henryville, Renville county, Minn., where the father and sons took a homestead and farmed until the winter of the "Big Blizzard." Jan. 7, 1873, a journey was made to Willmar with loads of wheat by John, Charles and Stephen O'Neill in company with Thomas and Michael Holden. A terrible snow storm came up and the men lost their way and of the five, Michael Holden was the only survivor. William and Patrick remained on the farm until a few years ago when both retired and moved to Olivia. James went west and engaged in the mining business until his death in 1905.

Patrick O'Neill was born in Quebec, Canada, Jan. 29, 1850, son of James and Catherine (Flanagan) O'Neill. He attended the common school of his neighborhood and grew up on the farm. He was married to Catherine Noonan, Sept. 5, 1871, born in Albany, New York, May 14, 1850. She came with her parents William and Bridget Noonan to Stillwater, Minn., where she was married. Eight children were born to this marriage: Mary E., James P., Agnes, John B., William J., Stephen F., Charles E., Arthur T., all residents of Renville county. Mary E., the oldest

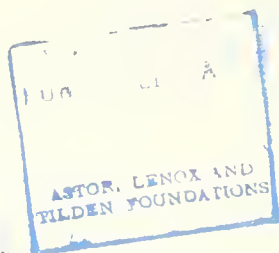
was born June 22, 1872, in Henryville township on the old homestead and remained with her parents until her marriage, Sept. 8, 1897, to Thomas J. Kelly. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly still live on the old homestead.

Thomas J. Kelly, a well-known farmer of Henryville township, was born April 16, 1861, in McHenry county, Illinois, son of Thomas G. and Ann (Corcoran) Kelly, both native of Roscommon, Ireland, and married in Baltimore, Maryland. Thomas G. Kelly had come to America with his two brothers when a young man in 1842. The father had died in Ireland when the children were young and after four years the mother came to America, accompanied by her daughter Catherine. She was seventy years of age when she died. Thomas G. was a blacksmith and followed that trade till thirty-three years ago when he took up farming in McHenry county, Illinois, where he had a tract of 240 acres of land. This was in 1860. He spent eight years on this farm in Illinois and then moved to Minnesota, to Renville county, and located on section 1, Henryville township. Half of the section was wild prairie land. The son, Thomas J., came first and located the land before the rest of the family came. A frame building was erected and they had only one team at first, but in time good buildings were built on the farm. Here the parents lived until their death, the father dying in 1897 at the age of sixty-six and the mother in 1901 at the age of seventy-six. They were faithful members of the Catholic church and the father helped build the Catholic church at Olivia. There were ten children in the family: Mary, Katie, Sarah, Thomas J., Ellen (deceased), Rebecca, Elizabeth (deceased), William, Edward and Julia (deceased). Thomas J. Kelly has held several school offices and was one of the founders of the handsome school house in District 137. He has been the director of the Farmers' Elevator of Olivia for the past four years. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and of the Knights of Columbus. He is also a member of the Catholic church. The subject of this sketch lived with his father until his marriage in 1897 to Mary O'Neill, born in Henryville township. There are seven children all living at home, Leo, Hazel, John, Gladys, Gordon, Charles and Francis.

Ole H. Doeken, a successful farmer of Erieson township, was born in Norway, April 23, 1850, son of Hans and Emjor (Doeken). The parents were farmers in Norway and died there, both being nearly ninety years of age. The father was born in 1813 and the mother in 1807. They had six children, Hans, Ingebret, Anna, Carrie, Ole H., and Emma. Four of these came to the United States, Ingebret coming first in 1866 and Ole H. in 1867. Anna and Emma came later. Ole H. Doeken was a lad of seventeen when he left his home in Norway and came to America, coming



THOS. J. KELLY AND FAMILY



to Quebec in a sailing vessel, the voyage taking nine weeks. From Quebec he journeyed on to Rushford, in Fillmore county, where his brother Ingebret had arrived the year before, this trip taking one week. He went by way of the Great Lakes, across Wisconsin to La Crosse and overland to Rushford. At Rushford he began work on a farm in Pilot Mound township, receiving \$30 per month during the harvest season. He also operated a threshing machine that first fall. That winter he attended school in the log school house at Pilot Mound, making his home with John Hall, working for him all the next spring and summer. The following winter he worked near Preston and the next year he and his brother, who had now come to the United States, rented the John Hall farm. The next summer was spent in work on Ole Wilson's farm near Preston. During the next six or seven years he worked for Andrew Hamilton of Winona. He then returned to Pilot Mound township where he remained about a year. After his marriage he and his wife, in the spring of 1879, moved to Renville county, making the trip with a team of horses and a covered wagon. His brother had already located on Hawk Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Docken located on section 8, Erieson township. There were no buildings and all was prairie as far as the eye could see. He built a rude hut, putting posts into the ground, nailing boards on the sides of them and covering the room with sod, also laying sod along the sides of the hut. The floor was of boards. When he settled here he had two cows and 80 acres of land. Since that time he has increased his farm to 250 acres and after five years in the sod hut built a good modern house which was burned in 1904. Another modern house has been erected since and also a fine barn. Mr. Docken has been chairman of supervisors and treasurer of Erieson township for many years. He has also served on the school board several years, and is a member of the Sacred Heart Lutheran church. He is a stockholder of the Sacred Heart Farmers' Elevator Company.

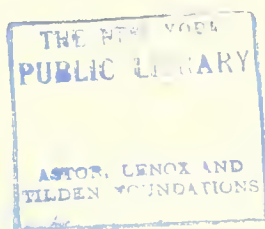
November 29, 1878, Mr. Docken was united in marriage to Martha Hanson of Pilot Mound, born in Fillmore county, Sept. 7, 1861, daughter of Hans and Bertha Hanson. Her parents were both born in Norway and came to America, first locating in Wisconsin, then in Pilot Mound township, Fillmore county. They had seven children: Hans, Anna, Erick, Martha, Rena and Mary (twins), and Hannah. They secured a homestead and built a log cabin, their nearest market being Winona, which they reached by ox team. Here they lived the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1905 at the age of seventy-four and the mother died twenty-three years ago at the age of sixty-two. They were members of the Lutheran church. During those days school houses were very few, and school was held for a time in their

log cabin. Mr. and Mrs. Docken have had fourteen children: Henry, born April 11, 1879; Bent, born Aug. 19, 1880; Emma, born July 24, 1882; Hogen, born Jan. 28, 1885; Lena, born Dec. 4, 1886; Clara, born Jan. 27, 1889; Matilda Ovidia, born Dec. 7, 1890; Othia, born March 27, 1893, and died in April, 1893; Oscar, born Sept. 24, 1894; Alwin, born Oct. 17, 1896; John Gilbert, born Jan. 16, 1900; Thomas Wilhelm, born June 7, 1901; Alida Theoline, born Aug. 10, 1902; Loie Catherine, born Aug. 21, 1905.

William A. Schneider, who lives on the rural delivery route No. 1, Renville, where he owns 480 acres, 320 in section 25, and 160 in section 36, was born January 11, 1871, in Germany, the son of August and Christina (Leis) Schneider. He obtained his education in Kankakee county, Ill., remaining with his parents until their death. He devoted his time to assisting his father on the farm which he still owns. He also owns three farms of 80 acres each in Sacred Heart township. He votes the Republican ticket and is now serving his second term on the school board. He is also a township supervisor and is serving his second term in that capacity. All of the improvements on the home farm were made by himself and his father, it having been unimproved at the time of its purchase. He is a member of the German Presbyterian church, a stockholder and director of the Farmers' Elevator at Renville.

Mr. Schneider wedded Johannah Karthuis in 1893. She was born in Holland, March 18, 1874, daughter of Klaus and Johannah (Derviek) Karthuis. She came to America with her parents in 1884. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Schneider: Christina, born Dec. 4, 1893, the wife of A. Dannen, now living on a part of his father's home farm; Herman, born Sept. 5, 1895, who departed his life July 20, 1906; Willie A., born March 29, 1897; Annie, born Dec. 8, 1898; Clarence, born Nov. 8, 1900; Arthur born June 28, 1902; Frank, born Dec. 6, 1904; Herbert H., born March 7, 1908; Theodore U., born April 29, 1912; Eveline Mary, born April 4, 1914.

August Schneider, born Feb. 13, 1830, died June 25, 1911, in Erickson township. He married Christina (Leis), born March 29, 1838, in Germany. She died March 3, 1907, in Erickson township. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider came to America in 1882 and settled in Kankakee county, Ill., where they lived on a rented farm eight years. They then removed to Renville county, where Mr. Schneider bought 160 acres in Erickson township, this being the farm William is now living on. They had four children: Christian, Gustav and Henry, who are dead, in addition to William. Klaus Karthuis, born in Holland Sept. 14, 1839, married Johannah Derviek, born Sept. 24, 1836, in Holland. They came to America in 1884, and settled in Butler county, Iowa, living on a rented farm for seven years. Moving to Crooks township, Mr. Karthuis



THE FENNELL FAMILIES



bought a farm which his son John now manages, his home now being with Mr. and Mrs. Schneider. His wife died in April, 1907. They had eight children: Hannah, Ellie and Dean, who are dead; Maggie, now Mrs. L. Mulder, of this county; Harm, of Lisbon, North Dakota; John, on his father's farm; Joseph, of Pipestone, Minn.

Gunerius Melsness, a retired farmer of the village of Sacred Heart, was born September, 1830, in Norway, son of Severt and Olene Melsness. The mother died in Norway, but the father came to America and died in Renville county. Gunerius Melsness came to America in 1866, the trip from Christiania to Minnesota taking one month. He came by way of Quebec, Chicago and Winona and Northfield. He was a carpenter by trade and followed that trade in Northfield. He next went to Goodhue county and after a while came to Renville county in 1868 to get land. He secured a homestead in Sacred Heart township in section 32. There were no buildings on the land so he built a log house 14 by 14. He had an ox team and two cows. Here he lived until 1902 when he retired from farming and moved to Sacred Heart village. During this time he replaced the log house with a modern building and improved and increased his farm to 460 acres, having had only 160 acres when he began. He also owns a tract of 40 acres in South Dakota. In Sacred Heart he has erected a modern house for himself and also one for his son.

Mr. Melsness is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and helped build the first church. He was united in marriage in 1870 to Maria Larson, born in Norway, Jan. 9, 1853, daughter of Barron and Martha (Mortenson) Larson. Her parents came to America in 1861 by a sailing vessel, the trip taking nine weeks and a half. They landed at Quebec and started for Minnesota, coming to Dakota county. The father worked for the farmers for four years and then, in 1866, the family moved to Renville county where he located in Sacred Heart township on the same section as Ole Melsness did. They drove to Renville county in a covered wagon and as there were no buildings on their farm they lived in the wagon until a cellar could be made. Later they built a log house. There were many Indians in the neighborhood and they passed the place by the hundreds often stopping for something to eat. The nearest market was at New Ulm. They had one cow and two steers. They ground their flour in the coffee mill and used parched wheat for coffee. Mr. Larson later moved to East Grand Forks county, where he was the first settler and lived there until 1902. He died at the age of eighty-two years. His wife is still living at the age of eighty-four years at East Grand Forks. Mr. and Mrs. Melsness have seven children: Olena, Minnie, Bertha, Sophia, Gerhard, Martin, who is on the home farm, and Henry.

Berge T. Birk, jeweler, of Sacred Heart village, was born in Norway, June 1, 1856, son of Targus and Elizabeth M. (Snduo) Birk, both of whom died in the old country. He came to America in 1884, lived in Illinois; from there went to Day county, South Dakota, there farmed for a while and later learned the jewelry trade, then engaged in the jewelry business in Hanley Falls, this state, until 1901, when he came to Sacred Heart and opened his present store. He has been successful, is a skilled workman, and has built up a large trade. He has been justice of the peace for the past twenty years, serving both in Hanley Falls and Sacred Heart. He is secretary of the Sacred Heart school board, and for three years has been president of the Sacred Heart Telephone Exchange.

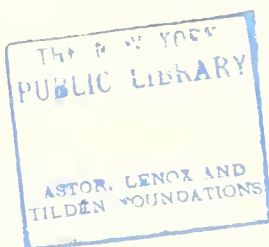
Mr. Birk was married April 20, 1893, to Selma Dale, born in Murdock, Swift county, Minn., Oct. 2, 1875, daughter of Iver and Inga Dale, natives of Norway. The father died in 1913 at the age of sixty-seven. The mother still resides in Murdock. Mr. and Mrs. Birk are the parents of seven children: Blanche, born Sept. 4, 1894; Irene, born Nov. 2, 1896; Francis, born Jan. 23, 1901; Zeberg, born March 1, 1905; Theodore, born Nov. 11, 1907; Carl, born March 15, 1910; Ingvald, born Oct. 11, 1912.

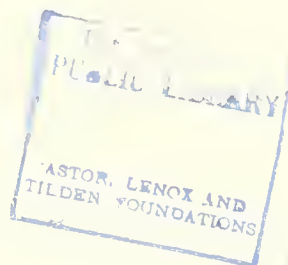
William H. Burghart, a progressive farmer of Norfolk township, was born in Brown county, Minnesota, Jan. 26, 1880, son of Daniel and Elenora (Adney) Burghart. The father was born Nov. 24, 1844, in Milwaukee, Wis., and came to Minnesota in 1868, spending most of his life in Brown county. The mother was born Oct. 24, 1855. In 1902 William H. Burghart began renting a farm in Birch Cooley township and lived there for eight years. In 1910 he purchased 197 acres in sections 18 and 7 in Norfolk township. He built a silo in 1910 with a capacity of 100 tons and feeds fifty cattle. He raises Percheron horses and Durham cattle and Chester White hogs, having forty brood sows and feeds one carload of hogs per year. He has built a large eight-room house and a barn 34 by 40 by 12 feet. He has also built a fine granary and shed 30 by 38 feet which was completed in 1912. Mr. Burghart was married April 25, 1906, to Amelia M. Kern, born Sept. 7, 1886, daughter of John and Christina (Pehr) Kern. Mr. and Mrs. Burghart have three children: Clinton, born Feb. 2, 1907; Mayme Ione, born Dec. 17, 1909, and Helen Merle, born May 10, 1915.

Frank Weyer, born in Luxemburg, May 5, 1865, the son of John and Elizabeth (Siegfried) Weyer, came to America in 1875 with his parents and remained at home until he was twenty-six years old. He then rented a farm in Winona county and remained on it for two years when he purchased 80 acres in section 23 Norfolk township, moving there in 1897. This farm he sold later and bought 196 acres in section 17, Norfolk township, where he now



FRANK WEYER AND FAMILY







PETER O. DOSSETH AND FAMILY

lives. He has a modern eight-room house and a good barn. For six years he has been school director in district No. 36. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company of Olivia; and the Eddsville Creamery. He is also a member of the Renville County Swine Breeders' Association. Mr. Weyer was married June 19, 1894, to Catherine Gloden, born May 11, 1872, daughter of Michael and Catherine (Siegfried) Gloden. They have three children: Edward, born Aug. 26, 1898; John, born June 7, 1903; Frances Catherine, born May 22, 1912. The family worship in the Catholic church.

John Weyer came to America in 1875 from Luxemburg and settled in Winona county, where he remained until his death in 1905 at the age of 73 years. His wife, Elizabeth (Siegfried) Weyer survived him and is now 86 years old. Michael Gloden married Catherine Siegfried who died in 1892 at the age of 47 years. Mr. Gloden was 66 years old when he died in 1908.

Frank Hagen, a prosperous farmer of Norfolk township, was born in Germany, August 14, 1867, son of Michael and Mary (Beyer) Hagen. Michael Hagen was a farmer in Germany and died in 1910 at the age of seventy-seven years and his wife died in 1872 at the age of thirty-four years. Frank Hagen came to America in 1882 at the age of fifteen years and engaged in brick-laying, which trade he followed in Mankato for eighteen years. Then he rented a farm for three years in Norfolk township and bought 200 acres in section 36 in 1900. He still lives there and has improved the farm and raises Chester White hogs and has been a heavy hog feeder in the past. He raises Belgian horses and is also quite a fancier in driving horses. In 1911 he built a nice brick house with a cement basement. The house is a six-room building, all modern, costing \$5,000. He did all the construction work himself. At present he is planning to build a large barn of cement blocks, 60 by 100 feet. Mr. Hagen is a stockholder in the Citizens' Milling Company in Franklin and in the Farmers' Telephone Company of Bird Island, and also in the Farmers' Elevator Company of the same place. He is a member of the Catholic church, and the C. O. F., and also the St. Joseph's Society of Bird Island. Mr. Hagen was married Nov. 19, 1889, to Elizabeth Schulte, born June 12, 1869, a daughter of Peter and Clara (Eikler) Schulte. Mr. Schulte was a farmer of Blue Earth county and came there from Germany. He died in 1895 at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife died in 1904 at the age of seventy-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Hagen have seven children: Rosa, born Aug. 19, 1890; Hubert, born July 23, 1892; Julia, born Aug. 8, 1894, married to Edward Schummer, a farmer in North Dakota; Frank, born Sept. 11, 1896; John, born Jan. 23, 1903; Agnes, born April 23, 1906; and Albert, born Jan. 3, 1908.

Peter Olson Dossseth, a retired farmer of Erieson township,

was born in Norway, Dec. 4, 1848. His parents, Ole Peterson and Christine (Dossseth) were farmers. His mother died when he was one and a half years old and he was taken by his grandparents and brought up by them, and took their name of Dossseth. He received his education in Norway and left for America in the spring of 1869, landing at New York. He traveled on to St. Peter, in Nicollet county, where he hired out to the farmers for \$15 per month and his board, which consisted mainly of bread and molasses. He remained there until the next winter when he engaged in railroad work on the Winona & St. Peter railroad. The next spring he went to Minneapolis and worked on the railroad until harvest time when he went back to Nicollet county. In 1871 he came to Renville county and located at Hawk Creek township, where he began to improve some railroad land. In 1872 he went back to Nicollet county to work and stayed there until spring, going from there to Waseca to see if he could earn any better wages. The best offer he received was fifty cents a day. He worked a few months in Freeborn county and then moved on to Mankato and Lake Crystal. After doing a little railroad work he and four others lived on his section in a dugout. When winter came he went to St. James, New Ulm and Beaver Falls. He sold his improvements for \$100 and bought an ox team. In the spring of 1872 he went north and took a claim of 160 acres in section 18, Erieson township. He put up a board shanty and planned to live here, but two men jumped his claim and he had to look elsewhere. He finally located on 80 acres in section 30, in Erieson township. There were no buildings on the land. He hauled material to build a house, in the meantime living in a dugout in the ground. He had one cow, one pig, a calf and a team of oxen. He did not have a wagon and when he wished to use one he would borrow his neighbor's, using it at night. Here he remained until the spring of 1912, when he retired and moved to the village of Sacred Heart. During these years he improved his farm, bought more land and erected fine buildings.

Mr. Dossseth has been a member of the township board. He is also a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

He was united in marriage to Martha Ericson, born in Norway, and who came to America on the same steamer he did. There are five children: Eric, Ole C., Martin, Marcus and Maria (deceased).

Joseph Schmoll, a proficient farmer of Norfolk township, was born in Germany, May 16, 1858, son of Casper Schmoll, who was a farmer in Germany, and died in 1885 at the age of sixty and Anna (Kuehner) Schmoll, who died in Germany in 1880 at the age of fifty-eight years. Joseph Schmoll came to America in 1882 and worked out for three years at Mankato. In 1884 he purchased 40 acres in section 19, Palmyra township and began

farming with a yoke of oxen, a plow and an old wagon. In 1885 he bought 80 acres more and in 1889 sold this farm and bought 160 acres in section 16 in Norfolk township in 1891. He is still living there and now owns 600 acres. His farm is well improved and he raises Duroc hogs. He makes a specialty of feeding cattle for the market and feeds about a carload each year. When he acquired the farm in 1891 it was all wild prairie. The present condition of the place is a splendid example of what may be accomplished in twenty-five years. Trees have been planted, a pleasant home erected, commodious barns and outbuildings provided, and suitable equipment of tools and implements purchased. Over 500 rods of the farm have been ditched. Mr. Schmoll has served as township treasurer for fourteen years and was a member of the school board for sixteen years. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Telephone Company and also in the Farmers' Elevator at Bird Island and in the Eddsville Creamery. He is a member of the Catholic church, the C. O. F. and St. Joseph's Society in Bird Island.

Mr. Schmoll was married March 5, 1889, to Katie Glesener, born May 24, 1861, and died August 24, 1913. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schmoll: Henry, born May 8, 1892, is a farmer in Norfolk township. He married to Sophia Amberg and has one child, Cecelia. Joseph was born July 11, 1893; Peter Casper and Paul John (twins), May 27, 1895; and Karl Wilhelm, July 30, 1899.

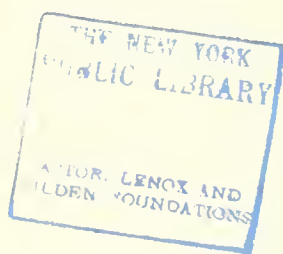
Henry T. Rauenhorst, a prosperous Bird Island township farmer, was born Feb. 5, 1880, at Easton, Faribault county, Minn. His parents were Theodore and Frances (Koonze) Rauenhorst. Since twenty years of age he has lived on the home farm in section 14, Bird Island township, purchasing it in 1911. He has improved the place with good buildings and now has an up-to-date farm. In 1911 he erected a stave silo, 16 by 30 feet, and in 1914, a swine house, 24 by 48 feet. He specializes in raising and feeding stock for the market, shipping about 150 swine, and from forty to sixty cattle every year. He raises Chester White swine and Shorthorn and Aberdeen Angus cattle. He is a director of the Farmers' Live Stock Shipping Association and the Canning Factory and also owns stock in the Farmers' Elevator Company.

Mr. Rauenhorst was united in marriage June 27, 1907, to Marguerite Keltgen, born August 14, 1866, in Norfolk township, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Steinbach) Keltgen. Mr. and Mrs. Rauenhorst have three children: William Cletus, born April 26, 1908; Murial, born Dec. 15, 1910, and George, born July 23, 1912. The family are members of the Catholic church.

Theodore Rauenhorst, born Sept. 26, 1838, in Germany, came to America when twenty years of age and made his first venture in Wisconsin. After a time he moved to Barber township, Fari-

bault county, Minn., where he took a homestead and farmed until 1900, when he removed to Bird Island township. He bought 320 acres of land in the western half of section 14 and also purchased the eastern half of the northeast quarter of section 15, and the southern half of the southwest quarter of section 10. He lived here until his death, April 20, 1905, aged sixty-six years. He was married to Frances Koonze, born July 16, 1842, in Germany, who survives him.

James Power, a prosperous farmer of Norfolk township, son of Michael and Honora (Williams) Power, was born Jan. 10, 1859, at Quebec. His father was a farmer and died in 1880 at the age of sixty-six years and his mother died in 1908, at Wadena, Minnesota, at the age of seventy-nine years. James Power remained at home until twenty years of age. After working out for two years, he set out for Minnesota and from Montreal to Milwaukee, and by train from there to St. Peter, Minnesota, going by stage from St. Peter to New Ulm. The rest of the journey, from New Ulm to section 26, Norfolk township, was made on foot and here he homesteaded 80 acres of land on the eastern half of the northwest quarter of the section. He is still there and now owns 240 acres. Seven winters were spent in the pineries in the northern part of the state and the summers on his homestead. He walked from Minneapolis to his homestead and back again three times. A frame house 16 by 20 feet was built and the lumber hauled from New Ulm. In 1906 he built a fine eight room house. He raises fine stock, specializing in Holstein cattle and Duroc swine and has also very fine Percheron horses. He was one of the organizers of the Norfolk and Palmyra township creamery at Eddsville and was the secretary for several years. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Bird Island and in the Citizens' Milling Company of Franklin. Mr. Power has served as school clerk for six years and is a member of the Catholic church at Birch Cooley and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Bird Island. Jan. 16, 1878, Mr. Power was married to Ellen Hogan, who was born, 1859, daughter of Daniel and Ellen (Fallon) Hogan. Daniel Hogan was a farmer, born in Ireland, and came to St. Paul, where he lived from 1855 to 1860. Then he moved to Rice county, where he lived till his death, 1912, at the age of ninety-five years. His wife died in 1892 at the age of seventy years. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. James Power: Honora, born Dec. 14, 1879, a trained nurse in Minneapolis; Daniel S., born Oct. 28, 1882, a retired farmer, Beaver Falls, Minnesota; Michael J., born August 13, 1884, who works in the pineries in California; Thomas E., born August 14, 1886, a farmer of Norfolk township; Mary M., born March 13, 1888, and died Sept. 17, 1888; Mary E., born May 26, 1889, at home; Margaret A., born





HAUGON HAUG AND FAMILY

Nov. 8, 1890, a teacher; James, born April 14, 1892, at home; and Catherine, born March 28, 1897, a student at St. Catherine's School at St. Paul.

Haakon Haug was born in Norway, August 27, 1853, son of Christian and Anna Sophia (Halverson) Haug. His parents were farmers, the father died in Norway at the age of sixty-two and the mother is still living at the old age of ninety-two. There were eleven children: Olivia, Liza, Ole, Haakon, Olaf, Arne, Anna (deceased), Carl (deceased), Lars, Emma and Caroline. Haakon was the only one of the family who came to America, coming in 1880 to Quebec and then going to Minneapolis where he worked for one year. Then he went to Renville county, working around for the farmers until he bought 80 acres of land in section 2, Sacred Heart township. There were some old buildings on the farm. In time he improved the place and gradually increased his farm, now owning 350 acres. He does general farming and raises Percheron and Belgian horses and Durham cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has been connected with the Farmers' Elevator at Renville ever since its organization and has been on the board of directors for a long time. He is also a member of the Farmers' Telephone Company. He has served on the school board as its clerk. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Renville and has held the position of trustee in that church several times.

Mr. Haug was married in 1882 to Emma Liete, who was born in Norway Jan. 25, 1858, and died in Renville county Nov. 20, 1902. She came to America with her parents when she was eight years old. Her parents, Gullick and Rachel Liete, came to America with their four children in 1858. The voyage took twelve weeks. They settled on a farm in Goodhue county, Minnesota, and in 1874 moved to Renville county. Mr. Liete was one of the pioneers of Goodhue county. They secured a homestead in section 2, in Sacred Heart township, where they lived the remainder of their days. The father died at the age of eighty-two and the mother at the age of seventy years. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. and Mrs. Haug have eight children: Carl G., Anna S., Nellie R., who is a teacher, Henry I., Ole, Lauritz, Emma and Arnald.

John Turner, manager of the Sacred Heart yards of the Central Lumber Co. for the past two years, was born in Sweden, Oct. 27, 1873, son of John and Hannah Swanson, who spent the span of their years in Sweden, he dying in 1892, at the age of 68, and she in 1897, at the age of 73. John Turner came to America in 1893, worked at carpentry in Sacred Heart a few years, and then took up the duties of his present position. He has been a member of the village council for three years, and is highly esteemed throughout the community.

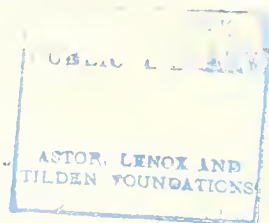
Ole Torbenson, one of Minnesota's sturdy pioneers, now deceased, was born at Sandsver, Norway, Oct. 6, 1852, son of Torbjorn and Maria Hellebee, who were born in Norway, came to America in 1853, settled near Iola, Wis., took a claim and died in 1855. The children in the family were: Grace (deceased), wife of Elling Olson (deceased); Catherine, widow of Fred Selmer, now living at Iola, Wis.; Christian, deceased; Andrew, deceased; Ole, deceased. After the death of the parents the children continued to operate the home farm. Ole Torbenson remained with his brothers and sisters until about sixteen years of age. Then he started out in life for himself. Among other things he took a good course in a business college at Milwaukee. In 1875 he came to the home of Ole Reishus, in Sacred Heart township, this county, erected a small building, and operated a general store for a time. Then, the C. M. & St. Paul Ry. having been built through the county, he moved to Sacred Heart village and started the first store there. In 1887 he sold his business and moved to Chamberlin, South Dakota, near which village, three years later, he moved onto a homestead, the property being still owned by the family. While on this farm a sad catastrophe overtook the family. A prairie fire surrounded the house, and a servant girl endeavored to find safety in a nearby pond for two of the children, Hubert and Helen. But the fire overtook them, and of the three, Hubert was the only one who recovered, the other two dying in a few hours. In 1898 the family returned to Sacred Heart, and Mr. Torbenson was employed in various stores until his death, Feb. 8, 1915. His widow now occupies the home in Sacred Heart. Mr. Torbenson was highly esteemed by his associates, and did good service for two years as clerk of the village. He lived and died in the faith of the Synod Lutheran church.

Mr. Torbenson was married Dec. 26, 1880, to Hannah Field, born Jan. 8, 1862, in Brandvold, Norway, daughter of Hans and Martha (Bingen) Field. This union has been blessed with nine children. Matilda M. was born Nov. 8, 1881, and is now Mrs. H. R. Baker, of St. Paul. Hubert T. was born Aug. 24, 1886, and is now the railroad agent at Sacred Heart. Helen was born Nov. 19, 1888, and was burned to death March 28, 1892. Otelia H. was born Feb. 3, 1891, and is now teaching school in St. Paul. Henning S. was born March 24, 1893, and is now a telegraph operator at Minnesota Falls, Minn. Helen S. was born March 23, 1895; Cora A. was born July 12, 1897; Clarence A. was born Feb. 4, 1900, and died July 3, 1900; Verdie L. was born Feb. 27, 1905.

Hans Field was born in Norway in 1831, learned the blacksmith trade, was married, came to America in 1866, settled at Beloit, Wis., remained there seven years, came to Renville county in 1873, took up forty acres in section 8, Sacred Heart township,



OLE TORBENSON AND FAMILY



later sold out, moved to Sacred Heart, opened a blacksmith shop and conducted the first hotel, was elected sheriff in 1888, and served two terms, after which he resumed his blacksmith business until he sold out in 1896. He then went to Audubon, Minn., until 1908, and since then has been engaged in the boot and shoe repair business in Sacred Heart. His wife was born in 1822 and died Nov. 29, 1898. There are three children: Olive, now Mrs. P. B. Olson, of this county; Inga, now Mrs. J. A. Glessner, Minneapolis; and Hannah, the widow of Ole Torbenson.

Martin Frederickson, a prosperous farmer of Hawk Creek, was born in Norway, Sept. 29, 1844, son of Frederick O. and Mary (Larson) Balka, farmers living in Norway. In 1866 the family moved to the United States, coming over in a sailing vessel, the trip taking a little over six week. There were four children in the family, Martin, Lars, Mary and Ole. Ole had already come to America. He had come before the Civil war and had enlisted in the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers and had served in the war. He now lives in Lengby, Polk county, Minnesota. The family came to Montreal and from there traveled on to Dane county, Wisconsin, by way of the lakes. Here the father worked out on the farms earning money to return the loan made in order that he might bring his family to America. In 1871 he drove by horse team to Renville county, Minnesota, on the way stopping a few days at St. Peter, Minnesota. He located on a homestead in Sacred Heart township, section 10, securing a tract of 80 acres. Here he made a dugout. When he stopped at St. Peter he had traded his horses for an ox team and a couple of cows and this was what he had to begin with in Renville county. All was wild prairie and there was no road past his place. Here he lived the greater part of the rest of his days, spending his last days with his son Martin. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Sacred Heart and helped to build the first church. He died at the home of his son, Sept. 27, 1902, at the age of eighty-four years, and his wife died in 1900 at the age of seventy-seven.

Martin Frederickson received his education in the schools of Norway and came to the United States when he was a young man. In 1871 he secured a homestead on section 10, in Sacred Heart township. He began proving up the land and built a small long cabin, 12 by 14 feet, with a sod roof. They had one cow and a team of horses. Later he sold this place and located on section 5, in Hawk Creek township, obtaining a tract of 160 acres. There was a small frame house on the place and a rude barn. Here he lived for ten years and then he bought more land in section 6, Hawk Creek township; here he also bought 160 acres and moved his family to this farm, still keeping the old farm. There were poor buildings on it when he came into possession

of it, but they have been replaced by modern buildings. He also owns a farm in section 18 of 200 acres. Mr. Frederickson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

About three or four years after Mr. Frederickson moved to Renville county, he was united in marriage to Lena Lee, of Norway. She was born April 22, 1852, and came to America with her parents, John and Carrie Lee. An older son, Gunder, had come first and located at Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and later some of the sisters had come. The whole family all met together at Chippewa Falls, and in the spring Gunder took his parents and the two younger children to Minnesota, where they located on a homestead one and a half miles east of where the city of Renville is now located. This farm has ever since been known as the Lee farm. Mrs. Martin Frederickson died in 1904 at the age of fifty-two years. Six children were born to these parents. John, who now conducts the home farm, married Selma Mathison, and they have one son, Morris. Hilda is Mrs. J. C. Hanson, of Hawk Creek township, and has one son, Henry. Miller, of Hawk Creek township married Cora Seim and this union was blessed with one child, Margaret. Anna is Mrs. Carl Moore of New Vienna, Ohio, and has a daughter, Margaret. Fred and Mary are deceased.

Andrew Anderson Wigland, a pioneer, was born in Sweden, April 24, 1846, there attended school, and there grew to manhood. It was in 1868, at the age of twenty-two, that he came to America and took up his home in Carver county, this state. In 1869 he came to Renville county and spent the first winter in a dugout in Hawk Creek township, after which he took a homestead of eighty acres in section 18, Sacred Heart township. Here he erected a log cabin for his family and rude shacks for his stock. Like the other pioneers he endured many hardships. The land was wild and had to be broken, the nearest market was at Willmar, forty miles away, and provisions were scarce and high priced. But he set at work with a will and overcame all difficulties. To his original tract he added another eighty in section 19, this making him 160 acres in a square block. Here he successfully carried on general farming for many years. In 1890 he went to Polk county in this state and bought 160 acres of land which he still owns. There he farmed for five years but then returned to his farm in Sacred Heart township where he remained until 1903, when he rented the farm and purchased a pleasant home on Main street in Sacred Heart village where he now resides.

Mr. Wegland was married in Sweden to Eli Olson, who came with him to America. She shared his hardships and proved a faithful wife and loving mother. She died on the farm in Sacred Heart township in 1899. They were the parents of eight children: Henry, of Ericson township, this county; Albert, of Bag-

ley, Minn.; John of Rochester, Minn.; Anna, wife of B. C. Thorngaard, of Bagley, Minn.; Alfred, on his father's farm in Polk county; and Andrew, Bernard and Christina, deceased. Feb. 15, 1900, Mr. Wigland married Bertha (Erickson) Oppegaard, the widow of Ole Oppegaard, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

Like the other pioneers, Mr. Wigland had many interesting adventures in the early days. One autumn, in pioneer times, Mr. Wigland and John Peterson drove to Beaver Falls for provisions. After buying salt and a little flour they found that they had but twenty-five cents left. Night was coming on. The twenty-five cents would pay for lodging for but one. Wigland therefore told Peterson to get lodgings while he would sleep in the wagon box. Peterson would not listen to this so they both slept in the wagon box with only two thin blankets to cover them. The weather was very cold and during the night Wigland got up and walked briskly about to keep his blood in circulation. Then he returned to his snoring companion in the wagon box. In the morning they were covered with three inches of snow, but they reached home in safety and suffered no ill effects from their adventure.

In the winter of 1872, Mr. Wigland had another adventure with the cold. He was in the woods chopping when there came up a very bad snow storm. The wind blew a gale and he was illy protected from the cold with a jacket and a thin pair of trousers brought from the old country. He had no underclothes. The trousers were loose and the drifting snow worked up under them until they were packed with snow clear to his body. He started for home but when within about a mile of his cabin he found that he could go no further. So he sought shelter in the home of a neighbor, nearly frozen and suffering severely from his experience. The neighbors finally succeeded in helping him off with his trousers and gave him other clothes, warming him meantime with a few cups of hot coffee and a hot sling. When he felt better he started on his way but found that his limbs were still paralyzed with the cold. It was two days before he could again start for home and after reaching his own cabin he was confined to his bed eight days more and it was nearly a year before he recovered entirely from the effects.

In the winter of the big storm, Mr. Wigland and Ole Rice started for Willmar with a load of wheat. The weather was mild and warm, and a pleasant journey was anticipated. The runners slid easily over the snow and the men were enjoying themselves greatly, sitting on their loads, smoking their pipes, and enjoying the winter landscape. Suddenly the storm broke. They were compelled to leave their loads on the prairie, and with their oxen they started back toward home. After going several miles they came to the stable owned by Magloire Robi-

deaux in Ericson township. In this stable they found two feet of snow. But they cleared a space to lie down in, and in that stable they stayed three days and three nights until the storm was over. Then Rice wanted to go home, but Wigland insisted on continuing the journey. He had not gone far when Rice joined him. They found their loads, hitched on their oxen and went on to Willmar. Mr. Wigland had left home on a Sunday night and did not get back until the Sunday night following. It was a happy reunion when he reached his home and father and mother and children were united.

Paul Erickson was among the worthy pioneers of Renville county and had his share in the general uplift and development of the community. He was born in Hadeland, Norway, there lived until 1864, when he came to America and stayed for awhile at Benson's Grove, Iowa, where his sister, the wife of James O'Connor, Sr., had already located. A short time later he came to this state and located in Waseca county. In the fall of 1868 he came to Renville county and took a homestead of eighty acres in Sacred Heart township. The following spring he brought his family here. For a time they lived in a dugout amid many discomforts. Later they were enabled to build a two-story log structure at that time considered one of the best residences in the county. It was 16 by 26 feet, the logs were carefully hewed and squared by Mr. Erickson himself and the gable roof was his especial pride. The house was a conspicuous land mark and was used for school and church, as well as for residence purposes. As the years passed the farms developed and prosperity came in full measure. In May, 1889, a frame house was started, but Mr. Erickson died that fall, and did not live to see it completed. He was a worthy citizen and his memory will long be cherished in the hearts of those who knew him.

Paul Erickson was married at Benson's Grove, Iowa, to Martha Amundson, who died Sept. 13, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson were the parents of eight children: Anna, Gudbjor, Theodore, Edward, Magnus, Herman, Gina and Mary. Anna was born Feb. 20, 1860, and died Nov. 26, 1896. Gudbjor was born Feb. 7, 1863, and died May 14, 1872. Peder was born Feb. 13, 1866 and died March 18, 1879. Edward was born Oct. 20, 1867, and now lives in Sacred Heart township. Magnus was born March 1, 1869, and was killed by lightning June 6, 1896, leaving a widow, Minnie Kling, and one child, Berdie. Herman was born Sept. 29, 1871, and died March 13, 1879. Gina was born Oct. 10, 1874, married Alfred Kling of Dunn county, North Dakota, and has nine children: Walter, Berdine, George, Elmer, Myrtle, Vina, Wallace, Millard and Harold. Mary was born Feb. 22, 1876, and died Jan. 11, 1911. She married Joseph Berquist to whom she bore four children: Marian Myrtle, Hilda and Mollie.





EDWARD PAULSON AND FAMILY

Edward Paulson, county commissioner from the Fifth district, Renville county, was born in Waseca county, this state, Oct. 20, 1867, son of Paul and Martha (Amundson) Erickson, pioneers, who brought him to Renville county in 1869. He was reared on the home farm, section 18, Sacred Heart township, attended the district schools and thoroughly learned farming from his father. He continued to remain on the home farm, completed the frame house which his father had started, planted trees and shrubbery, including the red cedar trees which now carefully trimmed are among the landmarks of the county, made beautiful lawns and developed the place in many ways until it is now the best in the neighborhood. For nine years, beginning Oct. 20, 1895, Mr. Paulson was grain buyer at Sacred Heart for Edward O'Connor, but aside from that he has devoted his entire life to farming. He is a competent business man and agriculturist, has been very successful and pays particular attention to raising full blooded Shorthorn cattle and Poland China swine. He is a stockholder and director in the Farmers' Telephone line and a stockholder in the Sacred Heart Hotel Co. He is doing the county especially good service as commissioner and in the past has been town supervisor and a member of the school board. The story of Mr. Paulson's real estate holdings is most interesting. Sept. 22, 1890, he bought the home farm, then consisting of 160 acres. In 1892 he bought forty more acres in the same section. In 1900 he bought forty acres in section 17 and in 1905 another forty acres in that section. In 1911 he bought eighty acres in the same section. In 1914 he bought 140 acres adjoining the home farm. He now owns 540 acres of good land under high cultivation and well developed. In 1910 he purchased the Hans Rude farm of eighty acres which he sold four months later at a pleasing profit. Mr. Paulson was married June 25, 1890, to Marie Gunderson and they have eight children: Hilma was born May 27, 1891, married John Trongaard of Sacred Heart township and has two children, Emery and Sylvia. Elwin was born Nov. 3, 1892; Arthur, Aug. 25, 1894; Esther, born Dec. 6, 1897; Viola, born May 16, 1900; Leona, born Dec. 24, 1903; Florence, born July 25, 1906; and Helen, born April 12, 1911. The family faith is that of the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Sacred Heart.

Ole Hendrickson, a retired farmer of Sacred Heart, was born in Vermland, Sweden, April 20, 1846, and came with his parents to America in 1869. In 1870 he took a homestead of eighty acres in section 2, Hawk Creek township, and farmed there until 1900 when he retired from farming but continued to live on the homestead until 1910 when he moved to Sacred Heart.

He was married Nov. 2, 1872, to Lisa Pederson, born in Vermland, Sweden, July 15, 1850, and came to America in 1871. She came to Hawk Creek township, where she was married. Seven

children have blessed their home, of whom only one is living, Matilda, who is an accomplished school teacher.

Simon C. Engen, a retired farmer of Sacred Heart, was born in Toten, Norway, June 20, 1843, and came to America with his wife and one child in 1869. For two years he lived in Freeborn county, this state, and then moved to Renville county in 1871, taking a homestead in section 30, Ericson township. There he farmed until 1911, when he sold his farm to his son Nels and retired to Sacred Heart. He was the first pathmaster of the township and was one of the first supervisors. He was treasurer of school district No. 43 for eleven years and town treasurer for three years. He was married August 30, 1866, to Andrena Nelson, born in Norway April 16, 1843, and they have had the following children: Peter Anton, Martenus, Sophia, Nels, Jens, Marie, Signe, Adolph and Jennie. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and has served as treasurer for many years.

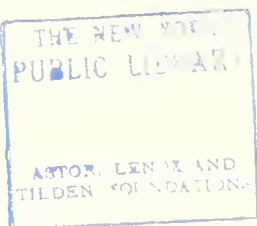
Iver Oie, a retired farmer of Sacred Heart, was born in Norway, July 30, 1845, and came to America in 1868. He located in Goodhue county and in 1870 came to Renville county where he took a homestead in Wang township, driving from Goodhue county with ox team. With him came Sever Strand, Ove Strand, Ole Strand, Thorsten Hamre, Andrew Weflen and family, Marie Estram, Engebret Thoronson, Gunder Haan and Iver Nystuen. Iver Oie remained on the farm until 1911 when he retired to Sacred Heart. He was married in October, 1874, to Gunhild Solfest, a native of Norway, born June 21, 1850. She came to the United States in 1872 and located in Faribault county and came to Renville county in 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Oie have six children: Gjorgena, Severin, Helmina, Ingvald, Dena and Gust.

Andres Johnson, a pioneer, was born in Sweden in 1818 and there married Bertha Olson, who was born in the same country in 1836. They came to America in May, 1868, and found their way to St. Peter in this state. From there Andres Johnson came to Hawk Creek in June of the same year and took a claim of eighty acres in section 26. Then he went back to St. Peter after his family and died there. The next year, 1869, the wife and children came and settled on a claim. For seven years they lived in a dugout. Then for fifteen years they resided in a log cabin. Subsequently they erected a frame house. They became prosperous and respected farmers and were well regarded throughout the community. The widow died in 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were the parents of seven children. Gustaf lives in Fosten, Minn. Osear lives in Hawk Creek township. Carl lives in Sacred Heart village. Olie lives in Fargo, North Dakota. Otto and Anna are dead. Augusta keeps house for her brother Carl.



CARL ANDERSON



Carl Anderson, one of the well-known men of Renville county, now residing in Sacred Heart village, was born March 25, 1855, in Sweden, son of Andres and Bertha (Olson) Johnson, the pioneers. He was reared on the home farm, and in 1888 purchased it from the other heirs. For several years he engaged extensively in grain raising and stock raising, making a specialty of Poland China swine and a good grade of mixed cattle and horses. Mr. Anderson still owns this farm of 280 acres, but since 1904 has lived in Sacred Heart village. He is a useful, progressive citizen, has filled several offices with credit to himself and to the advantage of the community and his public work will long be remembered. From 1882 to 1887 he was assessor in Hawk Creek township. From 1887 to 1902 he was justice of the peace and town clerk in that township. From 1885 to 1904 he was clerk of the school board of his district. From 1902 to 1914 he was a member of the board of county commissioners and was on the committee which had charge of the erection of the courthouse at Olivia. At present he is the assessor of Sacred Heart village. Outside of his real estate, his holdings include stock in the Sacred Heart Hotel, the Farmers' Milling Co., of Sacred Heart, and the Farmers' State Bank of Sacred Heart. He is a director in the first two mentioned. The family faith is that of the Swedish Lutheran church. Carl Anderson and his sister, Augusta, have a pleasant home in the village, and delight in keeping open house to their friends.

Ole Skalbeck, one of the sturdy pioneers of Hawk Creek township, was born in Sweden, May 23, 1843, and was there reared. Upon attaining his majority he came to America in 1864, and rented land in Dakota county, this state. It was four years later, in 1868, that he came to Hawk Creek township and homesteaded eighty acres in section 24. For a time he lived in a dugout. Later he erected a log cabin and there took his bride. Together they toiled early and late, and as time passed well deserved prosperity came in abundant measure. Their original tract was increased to 800 acres, their log cabin was replaced by a frame house, and near it were erected suitable barns and outbuildings. Mr. Skalbeck was a prominent man in the community, and was especially active in the work of the Hauge Norwegian Evangelical church in which he was one of the trustees. He also served as supervisor of the township and on the school board. He and his good wife passed through all the trials and tribulations of pioneer life, and were held in high esteem throughout the community. He died Oct. 6, 1903, honored and revered by all who knew him.

Mr Skalbeck was married Nov 20, 1870, to Anna Lien, who was born in Sweden, June 12, 1853, and came to Hawk Creek in 1869. Mr and Mrs. Skalbeck were the parents of a goodly family of children, as follows: Hermon O., of Sacred Heart; Olof, who

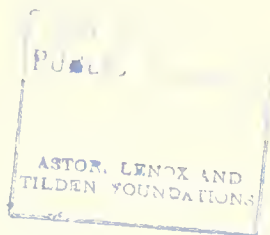
died Aug. 4, 1903; Idan, who lives at home; Oscar, of Hawk Creek township; Albert, of Belfield, North Dakota; Hilda, of Montana; Matilda, who died March 8, 1903; Joseph, at home; Alma, a teacher; and Benjamin, who lives at home.

Herman O. Skalbeck, a successful business man of Sacred Heart, hardware and implement dealer, and Ford and Overland automobile agent and skilled auctioneer, was born in Hawk Creek township, this county, May 25, 1872, son of Ole H. and Anna (Lien) Skalbeck, the pioneers.

Herman O. Skalbeck received a good public school education, and attended the Hauge Seminary, at Red Wing, this state. In 1895 he returned home and rented one of his father's farms. When his father sold the farm in 1904, he moved to Sacred Heart and bought the hardware store of J. J. Felska, and added a line of implements. Later he became agent for the Ford and Overland cars. For sixteen years he has also been a successful auctioneer, and his services in this capacity have been greatly in demand. His business holdings include 160 acres of land in Beltrami county, this state, an interest in 320 acres in this county, and stock in the State Bank of Sacred Heart. Mr. Skalbeck is a Democrat. When in the township he served as town supervisor for three years. Since coming to the village he has served on the school board and on the village council.

Mr. Skalbeck was married Oct. 18, 1896, to Petra Berg, of Hawk Creek township, born June 5, 1875, daughter of Paul and Ragnild Berg, natives of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Skalbeck have six children: Ruth, born Aug. 27, 1897; Arthur, born April 10, 1899; Hilma, born Jan. 5, 1901; Mabel, born March 23, 1903; Roy, born May 19, 1905; and Edna, born June 3, 1907. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Ole P. Skeggeby, one of the venerable old pioneers of Hawk Creek township, now living in retirement in Sacred Heart village, was born in the Province of Vermland, Sweden, March 17, 1831, and was there reared. As a young man he went to Norway and was there employed at various labor. In March, 1867, he embarked on a wooden sailing vessel, "Amalia," under Captain Peterson, at Skein, Norway, and after a voyage of seven weeks landed at Quebec. From Quebec he went by way of the Great Lakes and the canal to Wisconsin. It was in 1868 that he came to Renville county and took a homestead of eighty acres in section 26, Hawk Creek township. The trip was made overland by oxen. Upon their arrival the family lived for a while in a dugout. This was replaced by a frame house which is still standing. The family went through all the privations and hardships of pioneer life, but as time passed they prospered, and added to their holdings until they owned 280 acres of good land. Mr. Skeggeby set out the trees which are still standing as a tribute to his faith in





MR. AND MRS. H. O. SKALBECK



MR. AND MRS. OLE P. SKEGGEBY
CARL SKEGGEBY AND FAMILY



the future greatness of the county. He was a prominent man in the township, served as supervisor and on the school board, and was especially active in the formation of the Synod church, the Rev. John Berg, the first pastor, making his home with the Skeggeby family for several years. Mr. Skeggeby successfully carried on general farming until 1904, when he bought a comfortable home in Sacred Heart village where he still resides. He has led a useful life, has taken his part in the upbuilding of the country, and is now enjoying a well-earned rest. It is such men as he who made possible the present prosperity of the county.

Mr. Skeggeby was married March 14, 1863, to Berit Olsdatter Holton, who was born in Norway, March 21, 1841. This union was blessed with seven children: Christina, Ole, Betsey, Andrea Cordine, Sven, Ole and Carl. Christina was born Feb. 9, 1864, and died Oct. 17, 1872. Ole was born July 6, 1865, and died Oct. 22, 1872. Betsy was born Dec. 12, 1868, and married T. A. Rudy, of Redwood county. They have five children: Tillie, Mabel, Ole and Theorine. Andrea Carolina was born November 12, 1870. She married Martin Listrud by whom she had three children. Mr. Listrud and the three children are all dead. For her second husband she married Sven Homme, better known as Sam Homme, with whom she now lives at Granite Falls, Minn. Sven was born June 12, 1874. He is a farmer in Yellow Medicine county. He married Anna Collin, and they have seven children: Orrin, Kenneth, Theresa, Stanford, Prescott, Elmer and Birdella. Ole was born Dec. 3, 1875. He is a merchant at Granville, North Dakota. He married Clara Foss, and they have a son, Orville. Carl Sivert was born Dec. 15, 1879, and farms in Hawk Creek township. He married Mary Homme, and they have four children: Bernice, Gertina, Hildegaard Odella, Owen Wallace and Harvey Gordon.

Carl Sivert Sheggeby, a leading farmer of Hawk Creek township, was born in the township where he still resides, son of Ole P. Skeggeby and Berit (Holton) Skeggeby. He was educated in the district schools and grew up on the paternal farm. In 1900 he rented the home farm, and in 1911 purchased it. The farm consists of 280 acres, under a high degree of cultivation. He is one of the most progressive men of the township and carries on general farming along the latest approved methods. In 1914 he erected a modern home, one of the best in the western part of the county. The surroundings are ideal and the home is one of which the owners may well be proud. Mr. and Mrs. Sheggeby delight in keeping open house to their friends, and their hospitality is widely known. Mr. Sheggeby is one of the best types of the modern farmer and business man, and makes a deep study of his farm work.

Mr. Sheggeby was married Nov. 24, 1904, to Mary Homme, who was born April 26, 1882, in Yellow Medicine county. This union has been blessed with four bright children: Bernice Gertrina, born Oct. 27, 1905; Hildegaard Odella, born Aug. 1, 1907; Owen Wallace, born Aug. 11, 1910; Harvey Gordon, born Aug. 12, 1912.

The parents of Mrs. Carl Sheggeby were Henry and Gertie (Homme) Homme, who were born in Norway, came to America when quite young, married in Lincoln county, this state, settled in Yellow Medicine county about 1875, and now live in Pennington county, Minn.

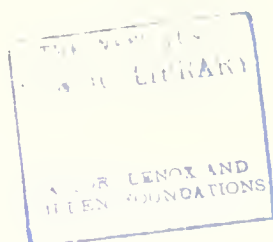
Peter Fagerlie, a well-known resident of Hawk Creek township, was born in Norway, June 20, 1845. He attended the common school of his neighborhood and grew to manhood. In 1872 he came to America and located in Blue Earth county, Minn. In 1875 he came to Renville county and, in 1884, he located on his present farm in section 22, Hawk Creek township.

Mr. Fagerlie was married in 1882 to Ingeborg Lien, born in Norway, April 19, 1853, and came to America in 1880. This union resulted in eight children: Caroline is the wife of Hilmer Eliason, of Hawk Creek township; Anna is dead; Othilda Emalia is now Mrs. Anfin Deason, of Sacred Heart; Peter Olaf lives in Hawk Creek township; Ida Paulina is now Mrs. Melvine Sagness, of Erieson township; Fredericka Elisa is at home; Emma Josephine is the wife of John Jorgenson, of Yellow Medicine county; Alma Christina is at home.

Hendrick Eliason, one of the honored pioneers of Renville county, is one of the few men living who can claim a residence of forty-five years in this vicinity. He was born in Varmeland, Sweden, Jan. 1, 1839, and came to America in 1870, locating at once on a homestead of forty acres in section 24, Hawk Creek township. Upon his arrival, he erected the log cabin which is still a part of the present dwelling. He broke and developed the land, suffered all the privations of the early settler, prospered with the years, increased his holdings until he had 320 acres and in 1895 constructed the present home and outbuildings. For many years he was one of the influential men in the community. In 1903 he retired and moved to Wright county where he lived for a year. There a longing for the scenes of his boyhood came over him and he departed for his native land. He visited many interesting points, saw many of his old friends, and then returned to America, locating in Sacred Heart village, where he is spending the afternoon of life, happy in the respect of all who know him. Hendrick Eliason was married in Sweden to Lisa Lien, who was born in that country, March 8, 1843, and died on the farm in Hawk Creek township, Sept. 12, 1903. This union has been blessed with ten children: Emil, Marthea, Hilmer, Olaf,



H. H. ELIASON AND FAMILY



Amelia, Christina, John, Lydia, Herman and Oscar. Emil farms in Oregon. Marthea is the wife of Albert Wiglund, of Bagley, Minn. Hilmer farms in Hawk Creek township. Olaf lives in Sacred Heart. He first married Carrie Myra and after her death, Veva Arntzen. Amelia is the wife of Nels Welman, of Bagley, Minn. Christina lives in Minneapolis. John lives in Oregon. Lydia is the wife of August Salk, of Elkton, South Dakota. Herman married Bernice Fannev. He farms in Oregon. Oscar is dead.

Hilmer Eliason, an eminently prosperous agriculturist of Hawk Creek township, was born in Sweden, May 27, 1870, son of Hendrick Eliason and Lisa (Lien) Eliason, who brought him that year to Hawk Creek township. He spent his childhood much as the other boys of his time and period, attending the district schools and helping his parents. In 1904 he rented the home farm and two years later purchased it. He now owns forty acres in section 24, 120 acres in section 13, and forty acres in section 14, where the residence is located. He has made many improvements, has sunk a 98-foot well which gives ample water supply for household and farm purposes and has installed an acetylene gas plant which furnishes lights for both house and barns. Mr. Eliason is a useful member of the community and has been treasurer of the school district for eight years and is now serving on the town board as supervisor. He is a stockholder and treasurer in the Hawk Creek Telephone Co., of Hawk Creek.

Mr. Eliason was married March 10, 1903, to Caroline Fagerlie, who was born in Hawk Creek township, Oct. 4, 1882, daughter of Peter and Ingeborg (Lien) Fagerlie. This union has been blessed with five children: Leona Isabella, born Dec. 28, 1903; Palmer Harlam, Feb. 11, 1906; Carlton Harris, Aug. 24, 1909; Oscar Raymond, Oct. 20, 1912; Delmore Arthur, June 27, 1914.

Olaf A. Odegaard was born in Norway, April 6, 1834. His good wife, Ingeborg O. Berge, was born in the same country, Aug. 27, 1841. In the fall of 1866 they embarked on a sailing vessel and, after a long and tedious voyage, reached America. They were married in Goodhue county, Minnesota, Nov. 12, 1866, and there lived until 1870, when they came to Renville county and took a homestead of eighty acres, in section 25, Hawk Creek township. Mr. Odegaard set to work with a will and constructed a dugout in which he and his bride lived happily for two years. This habitation was destroyed by fire and Mr. Odegaard then built a substantial log cabin in which the family lived for over a quarter of a century. Assisted by his worthy helpmate, he worked early and late, tilled his fields, planted groves, erected fences, purchased equipment and developed a splendid farm. He replaced the log cabin with a frame dwelling and constructed other buildings as necessity required and means permitted. He

purchased an additional eighty acres of railroad land and still later added forty more, thus bringing his holdings up to 200 acres. In 1900, after a long life filled with hard work, he retired and purchased a comfortable home in Sacred Heart village, where he died April 24, 1911, and where his widow is still living.

In the family there were nine children: Betsy, born May 18, 1867, is now Mrs. A. S. Dokken, of Yellow Medicine county; Emma, born May 30, 1869, is now Mrs. O. H. Antonson, of Hawk Creek township; Ole, born April 6, 1871, married Rosa Peterson and now lives in Taylor, North Dakota; Anna, born June 5, 1873, married Martin Falaas, of Brandon, Minn., and has five children: **Alice, Miller, Orville, Leonard, Ina, Cheolyn**; Ida was born April 29, 1875 and died June 10, 1899; Steven O. was born Jan. 10, 1878 and now conducts the home farm. Theo. Karolina was born March 29, 1880, and died Sept. 24, 1902; Olaf Alfred was born Feb. 27, 1883, and died March 11, 1903; Inga was born Feb. 27, 1885, and died Dec. 2, 1904.

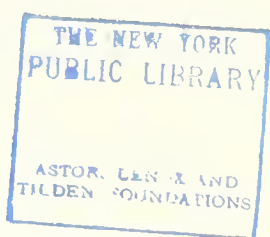
Steven O. Odegaard, an enterprising and representative citizen of Hawk Creek township, was born on the farm in section 25, where he now resides, Jan. 10, 1878, son of Ole A. and Ingeborg O. (Berge) Odegaard, pioneers. He attended the district school of his neighborhood and completed his studies with a three-year course at the Willmar Seminary at Willmar, Minn. In 1900 he started out for himself by purchasing 120 acres in the section where he was born. He also rented the old home place, which in 1912 he purchased. In addition to this, he bought another 40 acres, thus making him a splendid farm of 360 acres. Mr. Odegaard is energetic and an excellent manager and a hard worker. He carries on his agricultural operations along the latest approved lines and his success has been well deserved. In addition to raising the usual crops, he makes a specialty of Shorthorn cattle and Berkshire swine. Being a thorough business man in the up-building of the community, he has taken stock in the Sacred Heart Hotel Company. He has taken an active interest in public affairs, was clerk of School District No. 16 for eight years, served for a considerable period as town treasurer, and has served as justice of the peace for the past six years.

Steven O. Odegaard was married Nov. 12, 1905, to Hilda Gunderson, who was born in Wang township, this county, Feb. 27, 1882, a daughter of Hans and Bergit (Myrhongen) Gunderson, pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Odegaard have been blessed with two bright children: Otis, born Nov. 13, 1906, and Berdie Idella, born Dec. 5, 1914. The family faith is that of Our Saviour's Norwegian Lutheran church, at Sacred Heart.

Andrew H. Erickson, deceased, an early pioneer of Hawk Creek township, was born in Vermland, Sweden, June 11, 1857, son of Hendrick and Lisa Erickson. He came to America with



ANDREW H. ERICKSON AND FAMILY



his parents in the spring of 1869, stayed with them that summer in Carver county, Minnesota, and came with them that same fall to Hawk Creek township, where they took a homestead of eighty acres in section 2. He attended the district schools of the neighborhood and grew to manhood, assisting his father on the farm. Being of an industrious mind he saved his money, and about 1885 purchased the home farm, consisting then of 200 acres. He paid off the rest of the heirs and became sole owner and proprietor. He erected a good frame residence and a complement of barns and outbuildings in keeping with the residence. In 1893 the barn was struck by lightning and destroyed, but was soon replaced with a new one. He became a prominent man in the community and took a very active part in the school and church work, and also in the township affairs, holding offices of importance in all of these. For a number of years he was president of the Hawk Creek Mutual Fire Insurance Co. On account of illness in March, 1913, he moved with his family to the village of Sacred Heart, into his home which he had previously bought. He died April 29, 1913, leaving besides his wife three daughters.

Mr. Erickson was married Feb. 3, 1887, to Maria Berg. She was born in Vermland, Sweden, July 26, 1861, daughter of Hendrick and Lisa (Thompson) Berg. She came to America with her parents in 1869 and stayed that summer with them in Carver county, coming with them that fall to Sacred Heart township. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Erickson, three of whom are living. Hulda was born Dec. 21, 1887. She attended the district schools and the grade and high school of Sacred Heart, also took the academic course at the Jewell College and two years at the Mankato State Normal school. She taught for two years at the Austin, Minn., public schools, then for a short period at Illoquiam, Wash. She was also bookkeeper for a short time in a bank at Spokane. Then she taught a year at Sacred Heart, and is now a student at the Northwestern Conservatory at Minneapolis. Milda Luella was born Aug. 20, 1896. She is a senior in the agricultural department of the state university. Amy Eunice was born July 23, 1900, and is a student of the Sacred Heart high school. Harry Arthur was born July 28, 1894, and died May 11, 1899. Ella Louise was born June 29, 1889, and died Oct. 12, 1889, and one died unnamed.

Hendrick Erickson, deceased, a pioneer of Hawk Creek, was born in Vermland, Sweden, in 1818. He was married in his native country to Lisa Hendrikson, born in 1824 in Vermland. They with their family came to America in the spring of 1869 and stopped the first summer in Carver county. In November they proceeded to Renville county and took a homestead of eighty acres in section 2, Hawk Creek township. Heavy rains had made the trails almost impassable and it took them a week to make

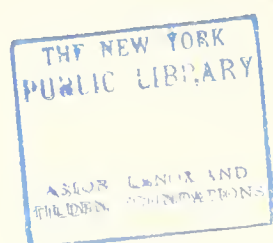
the trip with their ox team. In the party were Hendrick Erickson and family, Andrew Carlson and family, Hendrick Tompte and wife and John Tompte. A rude shanty was their first home and straw and log sheds were put up for the stock. They experienced all the trials of pioneer life, but in time prosperity came. Mr. Erickson increased his holdings by adding three 40-acre tracts of railroad land, thus making him a fine farm of 200 acres. He followed general farming until about 1885, when he sold the farm to his son, Andrew H. However, he continued to live on the farm until his death, in 1913, at the age of ninety-five years. His wife died in 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Hendrick Erierson had the following children: Hendrick, deceased; Ole Hendrickson, of Sacred Heart; Maria, Mrs. Ole R. Olson, of Sacred Heart; John Erickson, of California; Kari, Mrs. Albert Larson, of Sacred Heart; Erick deceased; Andrew H., deceased; Hannah, of Wisconsin. Two died in Sweden and one died on the ocean before reaching the port of Quebec and is buried in Canada.

Hendrick Berg, deceased, was born in Vermland, Sweden, on Feb. 21, 1826, and was there married. In the spring of 1869 he set sail for America with his good wife, Lisa (Thompson) Berg, and their children. They remained in Carver county during the summer of 1869 and then journeyed on to Renville county and settled on a homestead in Sacred Heart township. He secured eighty acres in section 28. At first they lived in a log cabin and endured all the trials of pioneer life, but as time passed a good home was built, barns and outbuildings erected and general farming was carried on by these worthy and hard-working people. In 1895 they retired to the village of Sacred Heart and lived there until 1901, when they took up their home with their daughter, Mrs. A. H. Erickson, in Hawk Creek township. The mother died that same fall. Mr. Berg, while walking west from Sacred Heart towards Hawk Creek on the railroad, was run down by a train and instantly killed in 1904.

Theodore A. Nellermoe, one of the early farmers of Renville county, was born in Norway, Feb. 15, 1864. He was the son of Andrew and Karen Nellermoe of Norway. His father died in Norway at the age of fifty-four years and his mother died in America at the age of sixty-five. There were eight children in the family: Trine, Christopher, Frantz, Ellen, Theodore, Anna, Jacob and Nels. Theodore's uncle John, his father's brother, came to America in 1866, coming on a sailing vessel, the trip taking eleven weeks, and landed at Quebec. He had intended to go to Iowa, but went only as far south as La Crosse, Wisconsin, from there going to Red Wing by boat and settling in Goodhue county. Here he stayed two years, working on the farms in the neighborhood, then he went to Kandiyohi county and located in Irving township. After a year he came to Renville



MR. AND MRS. T. A. NELLERMOE



county and secured a homestead of 80 acres in section 14, in Hawk Creek township. Here he built a sod cellar and a log stable. In the spring he bought an ox team and began working on his farm. In 1873 he returned to Norway and in 1874 he came back to Renville county, bringing with him his two nephews, Theodore and Frantz. He prospered with the years, added 160 acres more to his farm and built a fine modern house and buildings. He served on the township board and on the school board and helped to organize the Synod church and was a member of the conference. He died Nov. 13, 1902, at the age of sixty-nine. Theodore Neller-moe grew to manhood on his uncle's homestead. He attended school at the country school log building and later was a student at St. Olaf College at Northfield, and also attended business college in Minneapolis. For a time he clerked in a general merchandise and implement store at Granite Falls, then he engaged in business for himself, with his brother, Frantz, at Sacred Heart, in a general merchandise and machinery store. After fifteen years he sold his store and became a traveling salesman. Soon after this he was elected register of deeds of Renville county, on the Republican ticket and served in this capacity for four years. About this time his uncle John died and he returned to the home farm of 320 acres which he now owns.

Mr. Neller-moe has made extensive improvements on the farm since he has owned it, having erected a large barn, 36 by 100 feet, modern and sanitary, with full cement lower story. He has also built a fine hen-nery, 18 by 40 feet, and has done a great deal of ditching and fencing, also has tiled nearly all the low land and has as fine a farm as one would care to see. He specializes in registered "Big Type" Poland-China swine and single-comb Black Orpingtons and single-comb Brown Leghorn fowls. His farm in every way bespeaks thrift and progressiveness.

Mr. Neller-moe has also served on the township board of Hawk Creek for three years, and has been a member of the council of Sacred Heart, and also of the school board at Sacred Heart. He is a member of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Sacred Heart, and a member of the Swine Breeders' Association. He is president of the Farmers' Club and a member of the Pioneer Association of Renville county. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Neller-moe is secretary of Our Saviour's church, of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod of Sacred Heart, Minn.

Mr. Neller-moe was married in 1887 to Petra Gerde, born in Waseca county, Minn., Sept. 12, 1866, daughter of Peter O. Gerde and Mrs. Engeborg Gerde, who came to Renville county in 1874 and located in Erieson. Mr. and Mrs. Neller-moe have had ten children: Jay Clarence, born May 11, 1888; Arthur, born Jan.

6, 1890, and died Jan. 16, 1890; Arthur Franklin, born April 10, 1891; Irene Persis, born Jan. 19, 1893; Thomas Kenneth, born April 2, 1895, and died July 6, 1903; Lawrence Delmore, born May 18, 1897; Harold Reuben, born April 21, 1899; Pearl Theodora, born Nov. 20, 1902; Alice Dorothy, born Nov. 13, 1904; and Donald Christopher, born Jan. 3, 1909.

Halvor Helgeson Golie, one of the worthy pioneers, underwent many interesting experiences in the early days and had his share in making the western part of Renville county the prosperous land that it is today. He was born in Lynner, Haflan, Norway, son of Helge Hanson Golie and Berte (Sköen) Golie, Halvor being the only son in a family of four children. Halvor Helgeson Golie was married in Norway to Karrie Ogaard, and there had two children. In 1867 they set out for the new world. With them was Halvor Halvorsen Muttu and family, who were related to them. They landed at Quebec and, in time, found their way to Freeborn county, this state, where so many of their countrymen had preceded them. From Freeborn county they set out with a colony for Renville county. Mr. and Mrs. Golie walked the entire distance, their little girl riding on one of the wagons. After reaching Renville county, they took a homestead of eighty acres in section 24, Hawk Creek township. The family was fortunate in owning a cow and a calf which they had purchased in Freeborn county, but Mr. Golie was sick during the greater part of the first year and they had to sell the cow to get food. The claim which they took was wild prairie land without a tree and absolutely unbroken. For four years they lived in a dugout and there their oldest son, Herman M., was born. In 1872 they erected a log cabin, hauling the logs all the way from the river bottoms. After a time they acquired a pair of oxen. Herman M. remembers seeing these oxen hitched to the old Buckeye reaper. Later they raised two yokes of oxen and traded them for a team of horses. In 1870, the father, Helge Hanson Golie, came from the old country and took a claim nearby. Halvor Helgeson Golie and family in time achieved prosperity. They erected suitable buildings from time to time and brought the farm to a high state of development. They added eighty acres of railroad land and also another eighty, making in all a fine farm of 240 acres. Mr. Golie became a prominent man in the community and his death, March 7, 1896, was sincerely mourned. His faithful wife is still living on the home farm.

In the family there are four living children: Bertha is the wife of Otto Sweiven, of Sacred Heart township. Herman M. is on the home farm. Matilda is the wife of Edward Kamrud, of Makoti, North Dakota. Hans lives in Morris, Minn. Five are dead: Bertha, the oldest, died in Norway; Martha and Henry

Martinus died in Freeborn county; Henry and Caroline died at Sacred Heart.

Herman M. Golie, one of the leading farmers of Hawk Creek township, is a true pioneer, having been born in a little dugout on the farm where he still resides, March 24, 1871, son of Halvor and Karrie (Ogaard) Golie, early settlers. He received his education in the district schools and remained with his father until the latter's death in 1896. A year later he purchased the home place, but from 1897 to 1900 he rented and operated the Bergosa farm. Since then he has been on his present farm. He carries on general farming on a successful scale, has made many and varied improvements on the farm and makes a specialty of breeding pure-blooded Shorthorn cattle. He is president of the Hawk Creek Telephone Co. and a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Co. at Sacred Heart. He has been supervisor of the township for seven years and has been a school director of District No. 16 for twelve years. He is now doing good work as road overseer.

Herman M. Golie was married Nov. 24, 1894, to Oleane Olson, who was born in Norway, July 16, 1863; this union has been with two children, Hazel Margaret, born Aug. 28, 1895, and Clarence Mornell, born May 27, 1898.

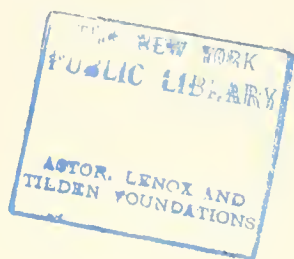
Karenus O. Agre, one of the honored and respected early pioneers, was born in Norway, Oct. 11, 1840, the son of Ole N. and Metta Agre, seventh in the family of eleven children, the others being Peter, Nels, Helga, Ole, Berener, Martinus, Karenus, Haaken, Ole Gusenus, Kari and Bertha. Haaken, the first of the family to come to America, left the old country in 1866 and settled in Fillmore county, this state. The next to come were Martinus and Karenus. They left Norway April 2, 1867, landed in Quebec, and on May 10, of the same year, reached Fillmore county, in this state. Karenus secured work, grubbing wild land for various pioneers, securing for this arduous labor only \$1 a day, sometimes less. He managed to save some of this, however, and in the fall of 1868 he and his two brothers, Martinus and Haaken, and their two cousins, Simon and Tollef Johnson, went into partnership with the intention of locating in Renville county as pioneers. They purchased three yoke of oxen, and after a long journey overland reached Hawk Creek township. There they each took claims on the prairie, and purchased a place of 160 acres, nearer the Minnesota bottoms. On this farm the young men moved into a little cabin already erected, and there they lived for a while. All the men being single, they kept house themselves and the duties of cook fell to Karenus. The winter of 1868-1869 was spent in Fillmore county. In the spring of 1869 they came back to Hawk Creek, and broke a few acres of land on each of their claims. During the summer of 1869, Martinus, Haaken and Simon went back to Fillmore county and

worked for farmers, while Karenus and Tollef stayed in Hawk Creek. In the fall they came back to make their permanent home here. Four of the party continued to reside in the county. Tollef died and his parents came over and took his claim. While living in the cabin on the 160 acres, Karenus had been busy making improvements on his claim on the prairie, and when everything was ready he took up his home in a sod house which he had constructed. It was to this place that he brought his bride. There they began their married life together, undergoing all the hardships and privations of pioneer life. Times were hard and provisions were few, the mosquitoes, the grasshoppers and the crows were a nuisance, trips to market were long and sometimes dangerous. But they worked hard and prosperity crowned their efforts. As time passed, their farm became one of the best in the neighborhood, and before many years a comfortable home, suitable barns, appropriate outbuildings, and well-tilled, well-developed and well-fenced fields took the place of what had originally been an almost unbroken waste, ornamented only by a crude sod house.

Aside from successfully working his farm, Mr. Agre found time to serve his community in various capacities, and he ever had the best interests of his township at heart. He has served both as supervisor and as chairman of his township, and has done admirable service as treasurer of the school board. He was one of the first stockholders in the Farmers' Elevator at Sacred Heart and is likewise a stockholder in the Hawk Creek Telephone Company. For many years he has been active in the Hawk Creek church. For some ten or fifteen years the services of this church were held in a log cabin located on his farm, as well as in a cabin on the Brevig farm.

Mr. Agre was married in 1870 to Mary Hanson, born in Norway, Nov. 4, 1848, daughter of Hans and Anna (Christopherson) Hanson. Her parents came to the United States in 1862 and located in Fillmore county, where they remained until 1867, when they came to Renville county and located near the Chippewa county line. Mr. and Mrs. Agre have had seven children: Ole, Hans (deceased), Marthea, Halbert, Casper, Martin (deceased), and Julius. Ole Casper and Julius have purchased the home farm and are successfully operating it. Marthea married Henry K. Rude and they live in Bagley, Minn., owning a farm in Clearwater county. They have two sons, Carl Melvin and Archie Oliver. Halbert married Minnie Jacobson, and they live in Clearwater county. They have three children, Millie Adeline, Phoebe Irene and Harvey Albert Odean.

Mr. Agre has many interesting stories to tell of the early days. One particularly interesting story relates to a freshet in the early seventies which swelled Hawk creek way beyond





HAAGEN O. AGRE AND FAMILY

its natural boundaries. Mr. Agre and other members of the colony had been to Willmar, some forty miles away, and had purchased three stoves, other hardware, 800 feet of lumber, and general provisions, making a very heavy load. About a mile this side of Willmar, however, they were stuck in the mud, and found that they could not make the journey through the wet earth with so much material. Consequently they returned to Willmar and unloaded the heavy material, after which they again undertook the journey with some 300 feet of lumber and some light provisions. Though the wagon wheels sank deep into the earth, they reached the east branch of the Hawk creek in safety. There they found that the creek had swollen and covered the prairie a wide distance in all directions. One of the men, Ole Kringsberg, took a rope and swam across the creek to the solid ground on the other side. A raft was made out of the lumber, and the rope held by the man on the further shore was tied to the front of the raft, while another rope, held by the men standing on the other shore, was tied to the back of the raft. Thus, by pulling the raft back and forth from shore to shore, the young men managed to carry all their provisions and their wagon in safety to the further bank. Then the oxen were compelled to swim, and, in due time, the party proceeded on its journey.

Haagen O. Agre, whose work in Renville county since the earliest days has had an important influence in the growth and development of the community, was born in Rendalen, Osterdalen, Norway, Jan. 31, 1843, son of Ole Nelson and Martha Peterson, natives of that locality, where they devoted their lives to agricultural pursuits. The father died about 1868, and the mother about 1876. Haagen O. Agre received a good education in the schools of his native parish, and worked in the timber and lumber business until 1866, when he set out with high hopes and a courageous heart to try his fortunes in the new world. He embarked on a steamboat, which encountered a bad storm just after leaving Christiania, and was tossed about on the North Sea a week before reaching Hull, England. After a ten days' trip out of Liverpool, he landed at Quebec, and there took the railroad for Chicago and from there to La Crosse, where he took a boat up the Mississippi to Winona, going thence by team to Fillmore county, where he worked among the farmers for two years. In 1868 he started with four others for Renville county. From Fillmore county they went to Chatfield, and thence to Waseca by railroad, from there going to St. Peter on foot. Then they came by team to Renville county. Thus arrived in this vicinity Haagen O., K. O. and M. O. Agre, and Tollef and Simon Johnson. They had been told to follow the trail, to Yellow Medicine, but by keeping to the government road they found themselves in a different direction from that in which they intended

to go. Night was coming on, so they wrapped themselves in their blankets, which had been cut with a hole for their heads, thus giving the men much the appearance of Indians. It was in this garb that they approached the shack of Joseph Myer, an early pioneer. He was a German and could not understand Norwegian. They could not understand German. He mistook them for Indians and was badly frightened, the more so because all he could understand of what they said was "Yellow Medicine," and Yellow Medicine was, in those days, the headquarters of the Indians. He pointed out the direction and slammed the door in their faces. The next morning Myer started for the shack of his neighbor, Joseph Schaffer, and told him Indians were in the community, declaring that he had himself seen five individuals whom he was sure were Indians because they wore blankets and spoke an unknown language. The young men, after leaving Myers, found that they were practically lost, but as a prairie fire was raging, they decided to stay in the vicinity all night. Nearby they saw a black object, dimly visible through the dusk. Making their way to the place they discovered that the black object was a log barn in which were a pair of oxen. Making the oxen move over to the side of the barn, the men brought in hay, and made themselves a comfortable bed for the night. The next morning they were on their way early. A light snow had fallen through the night. With nothing to eat, they made their way up the prairie, approached a cabin, and noted a young woman in the yard, attending to the farm chores. They still had on their blankets, and when they approached the young woman and asked her the way to Yellow Medicine, she, like the German the previous night, mistook them for Indians. She ran into the house and, hugging her little boy to her breast, determined to meet death bravely. But the men soon made themselves known to her as fellow countrymen. Her joy at meeting some one from home who could talk the dear old tongue of her fathers was equalled only by the fright that she had previously felt. She explained to them that she was Mrs. Maria Rude, and that her husband was working on the railroad near St. Peter. Soon she had a meal set out for them on a wash tub turned upside down. Her stories of the locality were so attractive that all five young men determined to take claims in the vicinity. Haagen O. Agre took a claim of 80 acres in section 10. He built himself a crude shack of logs and rails, with a sod roof, just sufficient to hold the claim. He did not live therein, but returned with the other young men to Fillmore county to get their oxen. There the weather turned cold, and as it did not seem advisable to make another trip to Renville county amid such conditions, the young men spent that winter in Fillmore county. The next summer they drove to Renville county, and, until they could make suitable

quarters for themselves, lived in a log cabin in the timbers on 160 acres, which, in addition to their claims on the prairie, the young men had acquired nearer the Minnesota bottoms. During that fall and winter they continued to live in this cabin, and in the meantime drew logs to their claims on the prairie and erected cabins. During these trips to the prairie claims, the young men often stopped at the home of Nels Bakke, father of John Bakke, for meals, and sometimes they spent the night there. In the spring of 1870, the young men moved onto the prairie claims. Haagen O. Agre took up his home in the neat cabin which he had built in section 10. In this cabin his family lived for several years, after which they erected a frame house, 16 by 24 feet, which is a part of the present slightly dwelling. As time passed he made many other improvements. He broke the land, erected necessary buildings, constructed fences, and planted groves and a good orchard of some 130 apple trees, and brought the place to a high stage of development. Mr. Agre passed through all the hardships of pioneer life, suffering intensely during the grasshopper raids and the hail which soon followed. The nearest trading point was Willmar, and provisions were scarce and high-priced. But with undaunted courage, Mr. Agre pushed ahead, determined to succeed. He worked early and late, managed his affairs with frugality and shrewdness, and in time acquired 600 acres, the larger part of which has been divided among his children, leaving him the eighty acres on which the cabin originally stood. In 1897 he erected what was then one of the largest barns in the community, its dimensions being 44 by 64 with 16-foot studdings. This building was destroyed by fire on Oct. 26, 1901. They were shredding corn with a Cyclone husker and had the blower going into the barn, when suddenly they saw the barn on fire. Another was erected on the same basement, but this one had 12 instead of 16-foot studdings. Then came a wind storm, which turned the building on its foundations and bent it almost bow-shaped. A wrecking crew straightened it up, but a year later came a great cyclone, which swept the barn to destruction and killed a horse and four head of cattle. On the afternoon of the cyclone the family had been visiting. Upon their return, although it was chore and milking time, they decided to have supper before doing their evening work. While eating supper the storm came up. Had they been doing their chores at the usual time, instead of eating supper as they were, several members of the family would doubtless have been killed. Since that time, however, Mr. Agre has erected a fine complement of barns and outbuildings, which form a picturesque background to the pleasant home.

Mr. Agre has been prominent in the affairs of his township for many years. For fifteen years he was a member of the Hawk

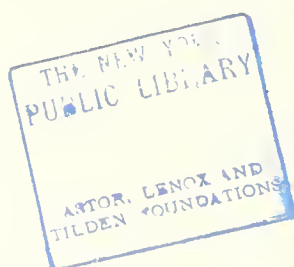
Creek Mutual Fire Insurance Co. and, during this period of membership, he served both as secretary and president. He is a stockholder and director in the Farmers' State Bank of Sacred Heart, and for a considerable period was a stockholder and director in the Farmers' Elevator at Sacred Heart. As town treasurer for many years, he did good service, and was on the town board as supervisor and as chairman. In the church he has been active, being chairman of the building committee when the Hawk Creek Norwegian Lutheran church was erected, and he was also the man designated to purchase the lumber, the reasonable price at which it was obtained being a tribute to his shrewdness and business ability.

Mr. Agre was united in the holy bonds of wedlock in July, 1871, to Inge Marie Johnson, born in Norway, Feb. 24, 1846, daughter of John Thoroson and Marit Peterson, who came to America in 1871, located in Hawk Creek township, on the homestead of their son, Tollef Johnson, and spent the remainder of their lives in that neighborhood, the father dying in 1875 and the mother in 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Agre have had eight children: Martha, Ole, John, Martin, Hannah Maria, Theoline Bertha, Hannah Olava, and Harold. Martha was born April 26, 1872, married Oluf Kvistero, of Yellow Medicine county, and has five children, Esther, Julia, Harold, Melvin and Peter. Ole was born Oct. 26, 1873, and is one of the leading farmers of Hawk Creek township. He married Mary Lindquist. John was born April 8, 1875, and is also a leading farmer in Hawk Creek township. He married Amelia Hanson, and they have three children, Oral, Hazel and Arbie. Martin was born Nov. 22, 1876, and successfully conducts the home farm, of which he is now the owner. Hannah Maria was born Dec. 20, 1878, and died in May, 1886. Theoline Bertha was born Sept. 29, 1882, and died Sept. 18, 1914. By her husband, Ole K. Ines, she left one child, Myrtle Henrietta. Hannah Olava was born July 27, 1887, and resides at home, looking after the welfare of her parents. Harold was born Feb. 10, 1889, and died March 2, of the same year.

Ephraim McBroom, a retired farmer of Renville, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, June 16, 1856, son of William and Maria (Miller) McBroom. William McBroom, son of John, was born in Ireland, January, 1814, and died in 1885. He came to America when he was twelve years old, the family locating in St. Lawrence county. In 1869 William and his family moved to Illinois, there being six children: John, Thomas, William, Ephraim, Margaret and Mary. They located in McHenry county, where they lived on a farm, later moving to Woodstock, where he remained until his death, two years later. He was a member of the Presbyterian church. His wife died in 1889, at the age of seventy-three. Ephraim McBroom received his early educa-



MR. AND MRS. EPHRAIM MCBROOM



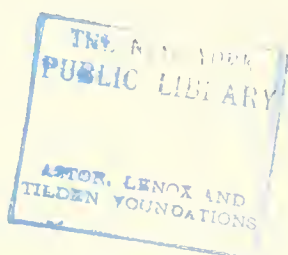
tion in New York state and in Illinois, where he attended the district school. For a time he farmed on the home place. Later he moved to Woodstock, where he remained for two years, then coming to Minnesota in the spring of 1890, and locating five miles northwest of Renville, in Erieson township, where he secured 320 acres. Here he built a small frame house, 12 by 16 feet. About thirty acres were broke when he took charge of the farm. He also built a rude barn and here the family lived until the spring of 1914, when they moved to Renville. During this time he improved the farm, built good buildings and developed the land. Mr. McBroom held many township offices, being supervisor and chairman of supervisors, and school officer for many years. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company of Renville. In 1899 a cheese factory was started on his place, which was known as the Erieson Co-operative Cheese Factory, Mr. McBroom being the treasurer for a long time and also the salesman. Fraternally, he is a member of the I. O. O. F. of Renville. Mr. McBroom was married Sept. 6, 1882, in Illinois, to Alice McLean, born in Clayton county, Iowa, May 30, 1861, daughter of John and Allison (Binnie) McLean, both natives of Scotland, the father coming to America when he was twenty-six years old and the mother when she was eleven years old. John McLean was born June 13, 1826, near Glasgow, and settled in Dundee, Kane county, Illinois. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted in the fall of 1864, in Company K., in the Fifteenth Iowa Regiment, and was discharged July 24, 1865. He accompanied General Sherman on his famous march to the sea. He died Jan. 20, 1907. Allison McLean was born Feb. 23, 1837, at Airdrie, near Edinburgh, Scotland, and they were married Sept. 7, 1852. Her parents also settled in Kane county, later moving to Benton county, Iowa, and then to Clayton county. Then they returned to Illinois, where they settled in Seneca township, McHenry county. Mrs. McLean died June 29, 1906. Fifteen children were born to Mr. and Mrs. McLean: James, born Sept. 11, 1853; Robert, born Sept. 30, 1854; John, born Feb. 14, 1856; Agnes, born April 21, 1857; Maggie, born May 9, 1858; Albert, born Nov. 27, 1859; Alice, born May 30, 1861; Mary, born April 5, 1864; William, June 21, 1866; David, born July 15, 1867; Christian, born Jan. 11, 1869; Jessie, born March 11, 1870; Henry, born Sept. 13, 1877, and one who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. McBroom have had eleven children: Roy; Harley and Charles, twins, Charles dying at the age of twenty years; George, a veterinary surgeon at Atwater, Minnesota; Winnie, Harry, Allison, Howard, Margaret, Guy and Mary. Roy is in charge of the farm in Erieson township.

A. T. Ellingboe was born in Norway, Aug. 13, 1852, and was brought to America in 1861 by his parents, Thron I. and Kjusti

Kjirtsen, with his three brothers, Iver, Henry and Thom, and his four sisters, Veljer, Kjersti, Soneva and Berit, the voyage taking eleven weeks. The family came to Goodhue county, July 4, and made their home there. Here A. T. received his education at the common school and then spent one year at St. Olaf's College at Northfield, Minn. In 1873 he moved to Renville county, where he secured a homestead in section 4, Wang township, where he has lived ever since. Mr. Ellingboe has held many positions of public trust. In 1876 he was elected town clerk of Wang, which position he has held ever since. In 1877 he was elected justice of the peace, which office he also has held ever since. In 1878 he became clerk for School District No. 44. In 1880, 1890 and 1910 he was appointed enumerator of the census of Wang, Hawk Creek and Erieson. In 1902 he was elected treasurer of the Hawk Creek Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co., and has held the office ever since. He was postmaster of New Lisbon for eighteen years.

Mr. Ellingboe was married Dec. 16, 1876, to Berit E. Lien, daughter of Endre K. Lien and Berit (Gjevre) Lien, natives of Norway, who came from Norway in 1866. Nine children were born to this union, six of whom are living. Thom, born Oct. 6, 1877, died Sept. 18, 1913. Bertha, born April 10, 1879, married Gilbert Strand in 1914 and has one child, Bertha lola Marie. Christine, born Feb. 13, 1881, has been a teacher for ten years. Endre, born June 10, 1883, is a farmer in section 10, Wang township, and married to Gina Lofsgorden, June, 1912. Iver, born June 10, 1885, is a farmer in section 10, Wang township. Andris A., born Sept. 16, 1887, is a land owner in North Dakota. Clara, born July 16, 1890, is a teacher. Two children died in infancy. Mrs. Ellingboe died Aug. 26, 1895. Mr. Ellingboe was married a second time to Marit G. Gjevre, Aug. 1, 1897. She was a cousin of his first wife, and daughter of Gunder and Gro (Helgeson) Gjevre, natives of Norway, who came to America on the same ship as the parents of his first wife. Three children were born by this marriage: Esther, born in 1898, a student at Madison, Minn.; George, born Sept. 25, 1899, at home on the farm, and Agnes, born Sept. 3, 1901, student at Maynard public schools, Maynard, Minn.

John Gens was born in Germany and there married Caroline Rhofult. They came to America in 1869, the voyage taking thirteen weeks, and landed at New York. Then they traveled on to New Ulm, where they located for a time. Mr. Gens finding work in the lime kiln. In 1871 they came to Renville county and secured a homestead, in section 34 of Emmet township, of 80 acres of prairie land. There were no buildings and no roads. A sod hut was built and money was borrowed to buy a cow and a steer. A piece of a wagon was also obtained and breaking of the land





P. C. BREVIG AND FAMILY

was begun. Mr. Gens gradually prospered so that in time he was the owner of 620 acres and was able to erect new and modern buildings on his farm. Mr. Gens held several township offices, serving on the school board, and helped start the first school. He was also a member of the Lutheran church and held the position of trustee. He also was instrumental in helping build a new church building. Mr. Gens, as noted, was married in Germany to Carolina Rhofult, and one child, Amelia, was born in Germany; Anna was born in New Ulm, and the following in Renville county: Ida, August, John and Henry. Mr. Gens died in 1896 at the age of sixty years and his wife died in 1906 at the age of sixty years.

John H. Gens, a successful farmer of Emmet township, was born Feb. 4, 1873, son of John and Caroline (Rhofult) Gens, natives of Germany. He received his early education in Emmet township schools and lived on the home farm until he was twenty-six years of age, when he was married and located on a farm of his own, in section 29, Emmet township. He bought 160 acres and planted trees and erected buildings, as there were no improvements on the place when he came into possession of it. He built a barn, 70 by 48 feet, with a cement basement, and raises full-blooded Durham cattle. He has also added 80 acres more to his farm. Mr. Gens is a stockholder in the Renville Farmers' Elevator. He has also held several township offices, having been supervisor, assessor, road overseer and clerk of the school board. He is also a member of the Lutheran church and has held various offices in the church. Nov. 11, 1898, Mr. Gens was married to Ida Rachild, born in Emmet township, July 1, 1877, daughter of Albert and Minnie (Britine) Rachild. Eight children were born to these parents, all of whom are living: Alma, Mattie, Esther, Herbert, Louis, Cora, Clarence and Walter.

Paul C. Brevig who, for many years, has taken an active part in the development and progress of Hawk Creek and vicinity, was born in Kalverids, Prestigjeld, North Trondhjims Amt, his boyhood name being Paul Christian Pettersen Brevig. His father was Petter Jacob Loeretsen Brevig and his mother Olava Nelsdatter Brevig. P. C. Brevig was born June 24, 1840, baptized July 26, 1840, and on July 15, 1855, was confirmed by the Rev. John Ludwig Lampe. He attended school and grew to manhood, and on June 17, 1866, was married at Folderieds Kirke, by the Rev. Knute Torkelson, to Anna Sophia Benjaminsdatter, daughter of Benjamin Nielsen Bjoraa and Sophia Berthilsdatter. Anna Sophia Benjaminsdatter was born in the same neighborhood as her husband, Sept. 27, 1847, was baptized Oct. 30, 1847, and was confirmed Aug. 16, 1863, by the same minister who married her. She died May 31, 1909. On May 8, 1867, Mr. and Mrs. Brevig left Norway, determined to seek their fortunes and establish

their new home in America. They reached Olmsted county, in this state, July 29, 1867, and there stayed some two years. There their oldest child was born. In May, 1869, they set out with a party of home-seekers from Olmsted county, and in due time reached Hawk Creek township. Mr. Brevig homesteaded a claim in section 4, and started life as a Minnesota pioneer. There were many privations to endure and hardships to overcome, but with true courage, he and his good wife worked together, and, as the years passed, developed one of the best farms in the community. They raised a large family and gave them a good education, giving them a sound Christian upbringing. It was in 1904 that Mr. Brevig retired from the farm and moved to the village of Sacred Heart, where he engaged for a time in the banking business. He is not now actively engaged in business. He has erected a number of houses in Sacred Heart, and now lives in a slightly home which he erected some years ago, facing the high school building. For many years, Mr. Brevig occupied a prominent position in the township, having served both as chairman of the town board and as township treasurer. For many years he was director in School District No. 42. He was on the board of the first Farmers' Club organized in Hawk Creek. He has also been on the boards of the farmers' creamery, mill and warehouse at Sacred Heart. Possibly his most active public work has been done in the church. Early services of the Vestre Sogn congregation were held on his farm, and he helped to organize that congregation. He was on the committee when the church was erected. He has been treasurer of the congregation 44 years. When he became treasurer he also became the "kjerkesanger," and has since retained that position, now serving in that capacity in the Norwegian Lutheran church in Sacred Heart.

Mr. and Mrs. Brevig have been blessed with ten children, of whom four are dead. Neils Jorgen was born Feb. 10, 1869, and is now cashier of the American Scandinavian Bank at Fargo, North Dakota. He married Mina Melsness. Oluf Leonard was born May 19, 1872, and is pastor of the Norwegian Synod church at Plaza, North Dakota. He married Lena Ellison and has two children: Samuel Bernhof was born Oct. 6, 1874, and is cashier of the State Bank of Baker, North Dakota. He married Thora Larson and has five children. Petra Julia was born April 19, 1876, and is now the wife of Rev. I. B. Kilness, pastor of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod church of Westby, Montana. They have seven children: Anna Christina was born Aug. 13, 1877, and died Aug. 16, 1886. Selma Louise was born July 6, 1879, and died Aug. 12, 1886. Otto was born Feb. 1, 1882, and died Nov. 13, 1882. Emma Ovida was born Aug. 25, 1883, and died Aug. 6, 1886. Hanna Maria was born Oct. 26, 1885, and died Feb. 16, 1903. Anna Christina was born Jan. 5, 1888, and is

now Mrs. Victor Peterson, of Hawk Creek township. They have three children.

Paul G. Berg, one of the early settlers of Hawk Creek, was born in Norway, Nov. 23, 1832, son of Gulbrand and Anna Berg, farmers for many years in Norway, the former of whom died at the age of forty-four, but the latter of whom lived to the good old age of nearly ninety-three years. Of the four sons and one daughter in the family, three sons and the daughter came to America. Paul Berg attended school in Norway, grew up to farm work, and there married. In 1869 he and his wife and three children made the great venture into the new country. Few people can realize the terrors of that trip. Everything was new and strange, sea voyages aboard sailing vessels in those days were fraught with dangers, the food was poor and scarce, illness broke out, and the poor mother saw two of her children die and sadly watched them silently lowered over the side of the vessel to their last resting place. But the voyage was finally concluded and the family landed and found their way to St. Peter, where they remained for about a year, Mr. Berg in the meantime working about on farms to pay the \$40 which he had borrowed to make the trip. Then he began to save a little and, in 1870, he had enough to hire a man with an ox team to bring him and his family to Hawk Creek township, where he secured a homestead of eighty acres. This was in the wilderness, and the land was all wild prairie. All the live stock he owned was a cow, which he brought with him. In order to build a cabin, he was compelled to hire a man with a pair of oxen to haul timber from the bottoms. Later he bought a pair of four-year-old oxen, but even then he owned no wagon, and had to do his work under a great handicap. But as times changed he prospered and became one of the substantial men of the community. To his original farm he added fifty acres; he brought all his farm under a high stage of cultivation, and erected a good house and suitable barns. For many years he has carried on general farming in a successful manner. He has served as treasurer of the school board and has been chairman of the town board. In the affairs of the Hawk Creek Norwegian Lutheran church he has taken an especial interest, the first services being held in his log cabin and the first baptism being performed there.

Mr. and Mrs. Berg have had eleven children: Christian, Ole, Anna, Odina, Olaf, Petra, Olaf, Petra, Paul, Hans, and Hannah. Christina was first married to Christian Olson, now deceased, by whom she had six children, of whom there are living: Carrie, Lizzie, Emily and Christian. By her present husband, E. A. Hendrickson, of Roy, Washington, she has had four children, Ruth, Esther and Edgar, living, and Henry (deceased). Ole lives in Granite Falls, this state. He married Anna Hanson and their

children are: Ruth, Huldah, Arthur and Elvin, living, and Harold and an unnamed infant (deceased). Anna married Henry Stenson, of Starbuck, Minn. Their children are: Paul, Melville, Arnold, Herbert, Ruth, Ernest, Ralph, Gladstone, Mildred and Henry, alive; and Herbert and Ruth (deceased). Odena, Anna's twin, died in Norway. Olaf and Petra died on the ocean. Olaf lived in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. He married Minnie Peterson and their children are: Ruth, Paul, George, Ralph and Helen, living, and Roy (deceased). Petra is the wife of Herman Skalbeck, of Sacred Heart. Their children are: Ruth, Arthur, Hilma, Mabel, Roy and Edna. Paul and Hans are dead. Hannah is now the wife of Louis Nelson. They own and conduct the Paul Berg farm in Hawk Creek township. They have three children, Ruth, Florence and Hazel. In addition to these children, there are five great-grandchildren, Coral Swenson, Norma Swenson, Paul Edward Swenson, Robert Anderson, Geraldine Anderson. There are five great-great-grandchildren, Harold Helgeson (deceased), Arnold Helgeson, Vera Helgeson, Merrill Sneezby and Nora Sneezby. Mrs. Paul Berg died in 1913 at the age of seventy-nine years.

Stephen Dusterhoff, a pioneer, was born in Germany in 1850, son of Martin and Tena (Bruch) Dusterhoff, who brought the family over to the United States in 1864, coming on a sailing vessel, and spending seven weeks on the water. One of the children died on the ocean. On their arrival they located in Marquette county, Wisconsin, where they bought a farm. Stephen was fourteen years of age when they located in Wisconsin and remained on the farm until he was twenty-one years old. Then he came to Minnesota and located in Wabasha county, where he remained for six years. He then returned to Wisconsin and married and, with his bride, moved to Renville county, locating on a homestead of 80 acres, in Emmet township. There were no buildings on the place and no roads in the neighborhood. He built a small frame building and a clay barn, starting with one horse and one cow. Later he increased his farm by buying 40 acres more in Emmet township and 40 acres in Sacred Heart township, and kept a good grade of stock. Mr. Dusterhoff was a member of the township board for eleven years, being the chairman for several years. He was also the township clerk and assessor for three years, and served as a school board member for nine years. He was a member of the Methodist church and a member of the Renville Masonic Lodge No. 195. He died in April, 1903. Mr. Dusterhoff was united in marriage to Mary Ann Griffith, daughter of William and Mary (Roberts) Griffith, and born in Watertown, Wisconsin, Dec. 15, 1850. Her parents came from Wales and located in Watertown, Wisconsin. At first her father worked in a saw mill, then he moved to Marquette





MR. AND MRS. JOHN O. KOLDORN AND DAUGHTER

county, locating on a tract of land which he cleaned up from trees and woods. He built a log cabin and used an ox team in breaking the land. Later he and his wife moved to the home of the Dusterhoff's. There were seven children in the family: Mary Ann, William, John, Jennie, Margaret (deceased), Jacob (deceased), and Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Griffith both died at the home of their daughter, Mary Ann Dusterhoff, Mrs. Griffith dying in 1894, at the age of seventy-six and Mr. Griffith, in 1907, at the age of eighty-four years. Besides a son, William, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Dusterhoff had a daughter, Margaret, of Renville.

William Martin Dusterhoff was born Jan. 21, 1880, on his father's homestead, in section 18, Emmet township, son of Stephen and Mary (Griffith) Dusterhoff. As a youth, he attended the district schools and adopted agricultural pursuits as his life work. The home farm consists of 120 acres, on which is carried on general farming and a specialty made of full-blooded Poland-China swine. Mr. Dusterhoff married Rose Noska, born in New Prague, daughter of John and Mary (Wiskoehil) Noska, and this union has been blessed with three children, Donald, Helen and Stephen.

Michael Steven Knaresboro, a thrifty farmer of Emmet township, was born in New York City, Oct. 28, 1857, son of Martin and Catherine (Dervin) Knaresboro, natives of Kilkenny, Ireland. He was brought to this state by his parents as an infant and received his early education in Rosemont. When he was about twenty-three years of age he came to Renville county and located on a tract of 160 acres of prairie land, section 33, Emmet township. Here he built a 14 by 16 foot frame building and worked with a span of horses but had no stock. Mr. Knaresboro is a stockholder in the Renville Farmers' Elevator, and is a member of the Catholic church, and assisted in securing a Catholic church at Renville.

Nov. 28, 1885, he was married to Bridget Brannick, born in Kilmaverick county, Canada, April 4, 1860, daughter of Joseph and Anastasia Brannick. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Knaresboro have had three children: One child, a girl, died in infancy. Martin, born Sept. 21, 1887, is married and lives on the home place, and Josephine, born March 4, 1895, is also at home.

Martin Knaresboro, a Minnesota pioneer, was the son of Thomas and Margaret (Fleming) Knaresboro, farmers in Ireland. At the age of seventeen he came to New York City, spending five weeks on the ocean voyage. He began work in New York City as a drayman, but after three years he came to Minnesota, going by way of the St. Lawrence river and up the Mississippi to St. Paul. In the spring of 1858 he bought a tract of 80 acres in Rosemont. Here he built a log house and began breaking up the land with his ox team. He had paid \$200 for the 80 acres,

which was mostly brush and woodland. He at this time possessed \$100 in gold, a cow, a breaking plow, chain and wagon. He erected a straw barn on his farm. Next he moved to Dellwood and secured 80 acres, then he moved to Empire City, in the same county, purchasing 320 acres. Here he built a fine home and lived the remainder of his life. He served on the school board many years and was a member of the Catholic church. He was influential in securing the new Catholic church in that section. Mr. Knaresboro was married to Katherine Dervin, daughter of Michael and Catherine Mulroy, farmers of Ireland. She came to America when she was sixteen years of age, coming to New York City with an aunt. They were married sixty years ago, in New York City. The following children have been born to these parents: Thomas (deceased), Michael, Margaret, John and Catherine (deceased). Mr. Knaresboro died in 1897 at the age of seventy years, at his home in Empire City, Dakota county, Minnesota.

Joseph Brannick, a pioneer, was the son of Michael and Catherine (Martin) Brannick, of Kilkenny, Ireland, who came to Canada in 1812, and located at Osgood, near Ottawa. He brought his family to Renville county, June 7, 1872, and located in section 36, in Emmet township, on a quarter section of land and built a log house, 16 by 20 feet, his son, Michael, helping his father cut the logs. Joseph Brannick lived on this place until his death in 1886, at the age of fifty-six years. His wife died in 1908, at the age of seventy-five years. During the time that he lived in Renville county he served several years as a member of the school board. He was a member of the Catholic church and the first meetings were held in his log cabin, until the members could build a church. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brannick: Michael, Canice, John, Mary, Bridget, Joseph, Anna, Johanna, James and Elizabeth. One died at the age of three weeks.

Michael J. Brannick, a prosperous Renville county farmer, was born in Ontario, Canada, July 12, 1856, son of Joseph and Anastasia Brannick, natives of Canada who, when he was in his teens, brought him to Renville county. He received all his early education in Canada and remained on the home farm in Renville county until he was twenty-five years old, when he located in section 28, obtaining 160 acres in Emmet township. Few improvements had been made on this land. Mr. Brannick has erected good buildings, made many improvements and developments, and put the farm into a good condition. He raises thorough-bred Shorthorn cattle and Chester White hogs and keeps a good grade of horses. Mr. Brannick is a member of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Renville. He was married to Bridget Gavin, of Minneapolis, Nov. 16, 1891, daughter of John and

Catherine Hawley, who were early settlers of Minnesota, of Irish ancestry. Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Brannick have had ten children: Anna M., a teacher; Florence Marguerite, a teacher; Johanna, deceased; Bridget Theresa; Catherine Veronica, deceased; Frances Rose; Elinor Clara; Canice Joseph; Agnes Irene, and one who died in infancy.

John Koldorn was born in Norway, May 3, 1841, only son of Ole and Beret (Johnsdatter) Koldorn. He came to America alone in 1868, landed at Quebec, went on to Chicago, and, moving on, spent a short time in Council Bluffs, Iowa; in Wisconsin; in Goodhue county, this state, and finally in Renville county, where he secured a homestead of 80 acres, in section 14, Sacred Heart township. It was all wild land, no roads leading past his place. Here he built a log house, 14 by 16 feet, and here his family joined him. When he was in Goodhue county he bought a yoke of oxen, and with these and a worn out wagon and a cow he began his farming in Renville county. He dug sod and made a sod dugout for a barn. He now owns 280 acres of land and raises a good grade of stock. He has improved the farm and has erected a large ten-room modern house. He has also one of the best orchard farms in the county and fine oak and birch groves. Mr. Koldorn was married in Norway to Ann Groven. Three children were born: Ole, John and Ingebregt (deceased). His wife died in 1884, at the age of fifty-seven years. In 1886 he married again, this time to Mary Blom, born in Sweden, Oct. 16, 1862, daughter of Peter and Carrie (Anderson) Blom. She came to America in 1885 and was married the next year. Three children have been born to this marriage: Marcus, born March 9, 1889, who died in infancy; Robert, Sept. 18, 1890, and Alma, born March 27, 1898.

Arne Haagenson homesteaded a farm in Sacred Heart township, Renville county, in 1876. He was born in Vaaler Amt, Saaler, Norway, 1848, emigrated to America at the age of 15, and spent some years in steamboat work and driving logs upon the Mississippi river between St. Paul and New Orleans. He later was a sub-contractor in grading the roadbed for the Hastings & Dakota Railway when it was built through Renville county. In 1877 he was married to Ida Albertine Erickson at Christiania, Dakota county, Minnesota. Mrs. Haagenson was born in Minnesota, her parents, Johannes and Louisa Erickson, having emigrated from Sweden in 1845 to Rockford, Ill., and later in 1848 settled in Dakota county, coming with the earliest of that nationality that settled in the North Star State. Mr. and Mrs. Haagenson lived upon that homestead all the years through their life, Mrs. Haagenson dying in 1897 and Mr. Haagenson in 1902, and rest in peace in that God's half-acre of the Hanges Lutheran church, which lies just outside of the village of Sacred Heart to

the southwest. This young man, this young woman, came out into this then wilderness of the new west and planted a home for themselves. In the happiness of their youth they had their all, like most of the pioneers of that day. They endured the hardships, poverty and adversities which were then common to all. True to the tradition and characteristics of their race they believed in the spiritual and intellectual progress of a community as well as its material advancement; they helped to build schools and churches and spared no efforts to give the growing generation a better training to meet life's problems. To them nine children were born, Robert (I) dying in his infancy, the others all reaching maturity and occupying places of distinction and responsibility in their respective communities, and all giving testimony to a good father and mother. Alfred, the oldest son, lives at Barnesville, Minn. He is the president and treasurer of the Red River Seed-Produce Co., which operates grain and produce elevators at Barnesville, Baker, and Downer, Minn. He has served his city as alderman, mayor and school director. Carl is in the mercantile business at Barnesville. Sina is married to N. A. Oslund at Sacred Heart. John farms in Williams county, North Dakota. Bennie is in the mercantile business at Hamlet, North Dakota. Thilda is married to M. O. Iverson at Bok, Minn. Olivia lives at Barnesville, and Robert (II) lives at Osceola, Wisconsin.

Peter Bjorn was born in Sweden, April 19, 1854, son of John Johnson and Mary Peterson. His parents were farmers and charcoal burners. There were seven children in the family: John, Peter, Johoan, Stena, Anna, Erick and Henry. Peter was the only one of the children who came to the United States, coming in 1880 and landing at New York. He had been an iron worker in Sweden and went to Maine to work in the iron works there. He worked there for about a year and a half and then he went to Minnesota. At St. Paul he worked on the railroad in the summer and in the winter worked in the pineries. After four years of this work he went back to Sweden to visit his parents, remaining there for six months. On his return to the United States he came to Sacred Heart township and, in 1885, he purchased a tract of land of 160 acres. There were some old buildings on the place when he bought it. He had a team, one cow, and a couple of chickens. He has now increased his farm to 200 acres and raises a good grade of stock, and has improved the farm in every way.

Mr. Bjorn has held many township offices, having been the assessor for two years, chairman of the board of supervisors for eight years and a member of the school board. He is also a member of the Swedish church at Sacred Heart, and has been a deacon for many years.

In the fall of 1885 Mr. Bjorn was united in marriage to Eliza Edlund, who was born in Sweden Sept. 27, 1865. Her parents, John Bechman and Christina (Peterson) brought their family to the United States in 1868, locating in Sacred Heart township, section 2. The father died after they had been here two years, leaving his wife with the two children, John and Elizabeth. Mrs. Bechman later married Peter Edlund. Mr. and Mrs. Bjorn have had three children, John and Melvin, both at home, and Anna, who died at the age of six. They have also had an adopted child, Christina, who died at the age of twenty-one.

William H. Krueger, furniture dealer and undertaker, of Danube, was born June 25, 1879, in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, son of William and Caroline (Schwandt) Krueger. The father came to America at an early age, came to Flora township, this county, in 1888, became a very successful farmer, and is now engaged in the furniture, drygoods and grocery business at Spring Valley, Wis. The children of the family are: Martha, now wife of F. E. Schroeder, of Danube; Henry, now living in North Dakota; William H., of Danube; George, a farmer in Troy township, this county; Ella, now Mrs. James Moghan; Emma, now Mrs. Otto Hauter, of North Dakota; Esther, now Mrs. Charles Dobretz, of Spring Valley, Wis.; and Aaron, Irvin and Lillian, who are living with their parents in Spring Valley, Wis.

William H. Krueger was reared in the home of his parents and attended the neighborhood schools. In 1903 he came to Danube and engaged in the painting and paperhanging business for several years. July 6, 1910, he bought out the furniture business of Otto Schmidt, and in 1913 added funeral undertaking and funeral directing. Mr. Krueger is a Republican in politics, and served as village recorder of Danube from 1911 to 1912.

Mr. Krueger was married, Dec. 3, 1907, to Bertha Hinrichs, of this county, who was born Jan. 19, 1880, daughter of Folkert and Adaline (Carstens) Hinrichs. Mr. and Mrs. Krueger have three children: Sylvia, born June 6, 1909; Etta, born Dec. 24, 1911; and Ines, born May 5, 1914. The family faith is that of the Evangelical church.

Folkert Hinrichs was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1839, and came to America at the age of twenty-one years. He came to Renville county in 1867 and settled in Beaver Falls township, where he engaged in farming for ten years. Then he removed to Winfield township and there engaged in farming until 1894 and then retired to Olivia for six years. He next moved to Danube, where he made his home until his death Nov. 12, 1904. He was married at Joliet, Ill., Oct. 28, 1865, to Adaline Carstens, born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1844. She came to America at the age of six years and is still living at Danube. They had the

following children: Henry, of this county; Fredericka, of this county; Louisa, now Mrs. Otto Schmidt, of Danube; Fred, a farmer of this county; Lonie, of Danube; and Bertha, now Mrs. W. H. Krueger, of Danube.

Anton O. Skrukrud was born in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, May 22, 1859, son of Ole and Ingeborg (Romsaas) Skrukrud. His father was born Oct. 22, 1827, in Norway and came to America in 1866, going to Rushford, Fillmore county, Minn., where he joined his brother Knute, who had located on a farm two years before. During the first year he worked with a threshing machine. His family came to America the next year, coming on a sailing vessel, the voyage taking nine weeks and one day. From Quebec they went by boat to Milwaukee and from there on to Rushford. He there bought a tract of 200 acres of land in Pilot Mound township in Fillmore county. He built a log house, bought an ox team and began to improve the land. It was two years before he could afford a horse team. He also bought a cow for which he paid \$25. Here he lived until he retired when he moved to Lanesboro, where he now resides at the age of 88 years. Before retiring he had improved his farm, built good buildings, fenced it well and increased it to 400 acres. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and helped to organize the congregation in his neighborhood. October 23, 1856, he was united in marriage in Norway, to Ingeborg Romsaas, born June 22, 1828. His wife died in Lanesboro at the age of seventy-seven years. There were seven children, five of whom were born in Norway, and the two youngest in Fillmore county, Ole, Anton, Ella, Mathias, Olaf, Ingebret and Mary.

Anton was a small boy when he came to this country and received his early schooling in Fillmore county. In 1880 he left Fillmore county and came to Renville county, where he secured a tract of school land of 40 acres in section 6, in Erieson township. It was all wild land and he began to work upon it in a small way, with his team and wagon and with \$25 in cash. In May, 1883, he took a trip to Canada to investigate conditions in that country. To pay his way he worked on the Canadian-Pacific Railroad near Calgary. The line of road he was on ran from Winnipeg to Calgary. He did not find the country satisfactory to locate his family in so he worked the months of May, June, July and August on the railroad, then returned to his farm in Erieson township, this county. He gradually improved it and increased it until he owned 356 acres. In 1910 he rented this and moved to section 6 in Sacred Heart township, where he is now located. He has built modern buildings and fenced the farm and keeps a good grade of stock. He now owns 160 acres of land in that township and carries on general farming, specializing in the raising of sugar beets.

Mr. Skrukruud has been director of the Farmers' State Bank at Sacred Heart for the past five years and was one of the first to become a stockholder. He is also a director in the Farmers' Elevator at Sacred Heart. For several years he has served as township supervisor and has held other township offices. He has also been a member of the school board for eighteen years, having been both treasurer and director. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and for the past three years has been a member of the board of trustees.

On March 12, 1888, Mr. Skrukruud was united in marriage to Anna A. Kolstad, born May 19, 1866, in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. She came to America with her parents in 1867, coming over on the same sailing vessel that the Skrukruud family came on. Her parents were Engebret and Anna (Volden) Kolstad, who located on a farm in Fillmore county. The father died four years later at the age of thirty-three. His widow married Sven Kolstad, of the same name, and they are still living on their farm near Fountain, both being about seventy-eight years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Anton O. Skrukruud have had seven children: Onne Emelia, born July 17, 1889; Hlot, born April 12, 1891, and dying in infancy; Arthur Hlot, born August 16, 1893; Mabel Eleda, born August 26, 1896; Odin Millard, born Sept. 18, 1899; John Alven, born Oct. 18, 1903; and Baldwin Palmer, born July 30, 1905.

Ole Skrukruud, eldest son of Ole and Ingeborg (Romsaas) Skrukruud, and brother of Anton O. Skrukruud was born in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, and came to America with his parents in 1866 and located with them in Fillmore county. In 1879 he came to Renville county and settled on 40 acres of railroad land in section 6, Erieson township. That same fall he returned to Fillmore county and there remained until the spring of 1880, when he returned to his holdings in this county, his brother Anton O. coming with him. They worked together for two years when Ole, on account of ill health, was obliged to give up farming. So he returned to his father's home in Fillmore county, where he died April 9, 1884.

John W. Bakker, deceased, was born in Emden, Germany, March 25, 1834, and came to America with his family in 1869. He located at Forreston, Ill., where he followed farming for seven years. Then he moved to Grundy Center, Grundy county, Iowa, and farmed there for about eleven years. In the fall of 1886 he came to Renville county and purchased 200 acres of land in section 5, Crooks township. In the spring of 1867 he and his family moved to this county and he then purchased 240 acres of improved land in Erieson township on which he located. He engaged in farming and became land agent for Prince & Co., and was very influential in getting the Germans and Hollanders from Illinois and Iowa to settle in Erieson and Crooks township. During five

years he sold over 13,000 acres for this company. He was also agent for the O'Connor Land Co. He added to his holdings until he owned nearly a thousand acres. He was the founder of the Emden German Christian Reform church in Erieson township and worked hard for its support, and was an elder for very many years. He remained on his farm until 1902 when he retired to Renville where he died Jan. 4, 1913. His widow still survives. He was married in Germany to Henderika Spanhout and the following children were born: W. J., of Crooks township; George, of Crooks township; John, of Renville; M. J., of Crooks, and Harm, of Renville. Five children are deceased: Mena, Harm, Maggie, Gerret and one unnamed. At the time of Mr. Bakker's retirement he divided his land among his then six living children, giving each 160 acres of land.

William A. Johnson, a prominent farmer of Winfield township, was born in the township where he still resides, March 30, 1875. His father, D. J. Johnson, was born in Sweden Oct. 15, 1844, came to America in 1873, located at Lake Lillian, Kandiyohi county, this state, and a year later came to Winfield township, and homesteaded 160 acres in the northeast quarter of section 22, to which he afterward added another tract. There he remained until his death, July 24, 1897. He was married in 1864 to Christine Larson, who was born in Sweden in 1840, and died on the homestead in Winfield township, Jan. 30, 1914. In the family there were eight children: John, born Jan. 22, 1865; Anna, born Oct. 14, 1866; Louisa, born June 17, 1872, died in infancy; Charles, born Nov. 6, 1873; William, born March 30, 1875; Christena, born Oct. 24, 1877; Hilda, born July 13, 1879; and Mary, born Aug. 20, 1881.

William A. Johnson has remained on the homestead. He has brought it to a high stage of cultivation, and makes a specialty of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China swine. He annually ships a carload of swine and half a carload of steers, and milks an average of twelve cows throughout the year. In 1899 he rebuilt the home, so that he now has a nine-room structure, 40 by 48 feet. In 1886 his father built the barn. It is 38 by 98 feet, with a wing 36 by 40 feet. The sheep barn is 16 by 40; the swine barn is 16 by 40, and the granary, 58 by 48 feet. Pure water is secured from a deep well, and a gasoline pump takes it to the house and barns. Mr. Johnson was married June 19, 1904, to Mary Linn, born at Lake Lillian, in Kandiyohi county, Nov. 8, 1877. Her father, Erick Linn, was born in Sweden, Dec. 31, 1844, came to America and settled in Kandiyohi county, this state, in 1874, and there lived until his death, Aug. 31, 1897. His wife Bessie was born in Sweden in 1847, and still makes her home at Lake Lillian. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have five children: Gladys M. E., born July 29, 1905; William S., born Jan. 6, 1907, and died in in-

fancy; Evelyn M., born April 23, 1909; Elenora V., born July 6, 1912; and Valerie E., born Feb. 14, 1915.

Nicholas I. Hugger, owner and active manager of the Danube Creamery, was born in Denmark, May 2, 1879, son of Morton and Christina (Damgaard) Hugger. The father was born in 1847 and now lives in Vonsild, where he is town mayor and president of a company which owns a large coöperative store and creamery. In his earlier days he was an extensive farmer, making a specialty of buying, raising and selling dairy stock. The mother was born in 1848 and died in 1891. The children in the family are: Mathias, a miner, in Alaska; Jeppe, of Denmark; Christ, dead; and Elizabeth, Mary and Christina, of Denmark. Nicholas I. Hugger came to America in 1905, and for a time lived in Buena Vista county, Iowa. Then he attended the Dairy school of the University of Minnesota, from which he graduated in 1906 with high average score of 97 points, 100 points being the maximum. For a few months he was employed as buttermaker at the "Wooden Farm" near Minneapolis; for a time he was in business for himself at Osakis, in Douglas county, this state, and for four years he was at Parker's Prairie, in Ottertail county, also in this state. While there he was awarded a silver set as first prize in butter making and also the State of Minnesota Gold medal. After leaving that place he went to Denmark to visit his relatives. In 1912 he came to Danube, purchased the property of the old Creamery company. This property, which had been closed for three years consisted of a good brick building with modern machinery. It has been very successful under Mr. Hugger's ownership. The output is about 135,000 pounds of butter and the amount of business is \$35,000 a year. Mr. Hugger is active in the affairs of the community but has never sought public life. He belongs to Parker Prairie Lodge, No. 137, I. O. O. F. In politics he is a Democrat. Mr. Hugger was married at Osakis, this state, Dec. 19, 1907, to Emma Anderson, who was born in Union Grove, Wis., July 31, 1879, daughter of Clemen and Anna Anderson, who came to America from Denmark about 1870 and are still living in Douglas county near Osakis on their farm. In their family there are seven children: Julius, of Minneapolis; Alfred, of St. Louis Park, Minn.; Andrew, of Osakis, Minn.; Mary, at home; Clara, of Minneapolis; Emma, wife of Nicholas I. Hugger, and Mabel, at Home.

Otto E. Schroeder, of Danube, was born July 23, 1888, near New Uhn, Minn., son of Julius and Annie (Wilde) Schroeder. On graduating from the school at Danube he entered the National Business College at Minneapolis, from which he graduated in 1909. Returning to Danube he entered the employ of Otto Schmidt, dealer in hardware. H. F. Bruss later purchased this business and in 1913 Mr. Schroeder bought a third interest in it,

his partners being Elmer Fisher and H. F. Bruss. He is a Republican and a member of the Evangelical church. Mr. Schroeder was married June 18, 1913, to Cora Reek, born May 30, 1891, daughter of Herman Zaske, her birthplace being Renville county and her home at the time of her marriage Danube.

Julius Schroeder was born in Wisconsin and married Annie Wilde, born in 1867 in Germany, having come to America with her parents and settled in Wisconsin. Both of these people were farmers' children. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder settled in Renville county on 160 acres of land in Flora township. Selling the farm in 1900 Mr. Schroeder opened a country store which he operated for three years, selling it in 1904, when he moved to Danube and entered the hardware business. This business he sold three years later to Otto Schmidt, when he retired from active business. He still resides in Danube with his family. Seven children came to the home, three of whom, Aliee, Elda and Viola, living with their parents; Ida, now Mrs. F. W. Prodehl, of Renville county; Fred and Matha (deceased), and Otto E., of Danube.

Herman Zaske was born in Germany. He and his wife both came to America at an early age and are now living at Danube. Mr. Zaske pursued farming in Renville county for many years and now owns 320 acres in Troy township. He was the father of ten children, all of whom are living. Stella, Sarah, Pearl, Oscar, Gertrude and Lilah are living at home. George and Edward are on the farm; Walter is a farmer; Cora is now Mrs. Otto E. Schroeder.

Frederick A. Bade, the efficient secretary and manager of the Danube Mercantile Co., was born in Germany, Oct. 24, 1858, son of August and Ernestine (Montei) Bade. The father was born in Germany, June 4, 1829, brought his family to America in 1858, lived in Green Lake county, Wis., a few years and in 1867 came to Freedom, Minn., where he bought eighty acres of land, to which he added from time to time until he owned 200 acres, and became a very successful farmer. He died on his birthday, June 4, 1888. His wife was born Oct. 4, 1834, and died on her birthday, Oct. 4, 1898. Aside from Frederick A. there was in the family a daughter, Amelia, born Aug. 4, 1864, in Green Lake, Wis., now the wife of C. F. Karth, of Duluth. Frederick A. Bade received a good education and remained with his parents until twenty years of age, when he left home to carve his fortunes in the world. He was employed in mercantile establishments in Duluth and other places until the death of his father in 1888, when he returned home to look after his mother's interests. In 1890 he came to Renville, in this county, and opened a general store. Three years later he sold out and engaged in the drygoods and show business in Duluth, where he remained until 1905, when he came to Danube and established the Danube Cash store. Two

years later he purchased a building and moved to the new location. Five years later he lost everything in a fire. However, he at once erected a new building and opened for business once more. In 1912 he consolidated with Beek & Mackledt, under the firm name of the Danube Mercantile Co., Inc., with Mr. Bade in his present position. The store has made good progress and has a large trade from both village and country. Mr. Bade is well known throughout the community, and has been mayor of Danube. He is especially prominent in the work of the German Lutheran church. He has held various offices in this church, has been active in its progress, and is now the Bible class teacher in the Sunday school. Mr. Bade was married March 3, 1882, to Josephine Weskworth, who was born in Waseca county, Minn., Dec. 7, 1861, and this union has been blessed with three children: Elizabeth, August and William. Elizabeth was born April 7, 1883, married Lillian Looek, lives in Crooks township, this county, and has four children. August was born April 7, 1887. He married Anna Heach, and has one child, Ruby. William was born Aug. 2, 1904, and is attending school in Duluth.

Mrs. Bade's father was born in Germany, married there, brought his family to America in 1856. His wife died in January, 1898. There were five children in the family. Josephine, the fourth child, now Mrs. Frederick A. Bade is the only one living. Minnie died in 1897, Fred in 1914, Martin in 1907 and August in 1878.

Henry J. Stange, Danube, was born Sept. 6, 1889, in this county, the son of John and Ulricka (Brown) Stange. He attended school at Renville, and on finishing the course there went to work for Mayer Wolpert & Co., storekeepers at Renville, with whom he remained seven years. Leaving there he went to Minneapolis where he entered the National Business College. Coming to Danube in 1912 he purchased an interest in the Danube Mercantile Company of which he became secretary and treasurer. Later he was made vice president. This company owns the Danube Meat Market and the Danube Produce Company, Mr. Stange being manager of the latter concern. A Republican in politics, he is now serving his community as recorder. His faith is that of the Evangelical church. Mr. Stange was married Sept. 3, 1913, to Martha H. Summerfield of Renville county, born at Danube, the daughter of August and Otellia Summerfield. One child, LeRoy Edmund, has been the result of this union.

John Stange was born in Germany in 1844. He came to America in 1869, settled in Wisconsin and was married there, in 1870, to Ulricka Brown, removing to Renville county soon after where he homesteaded eighty acres in Troy township. He became quite well off and at one time owned 800 acres of land, the most of which he has divided among his children. He began life in Ren-

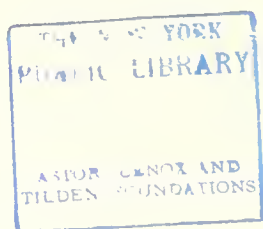
ville county with so little of this world's goods that it was necessary for him to do his plowing and hauling with a horse and a cow hitched together. He has property at Danube and is a stock holder in the Danube Mercantile Company. He and Mrs. Stange reside in Danube, two of his sons, William and Christ, residing on the farm which they are working. There were seven children in the family: Ernest, dead; William, on the farm; John, who lives at Havelock, North Dakota; Christ, on the farm; Frank, of Havelock, North Dakota; David, who resides at home and Henry J.

August Summerfield was born in Germany. He married Otelia Breitkrutz. They are now living at Renville, Minn. Mr. Summerfield came to Renville county and at one time was owner of the land on which Danube now stands. As a farmer he was eminently successful and now owns a farm of 320 acres which is worked by two of his sons. There were eight children in the Summerfield family, and three of the daughters married three of the John Stange sons. Emma is now Mrs. John Stange; Robert is a farmer in Renville county. William and Henry are on their father's farm. Lydia married Frank Stange. Otto lives in Montana. Martha is now Mrs. Henry Stange. Esther is at home with her parents.

Gunder Sorenson was born in Norway, Feb. 5, 1847, son of Tor and Carrie (Olson) Sorenson, who were married in Norway and came to America in 1867, bringing with them four children, Ole, Gunder, Anna and Carrie. They were five weeks on the water and seven weeks from Christiania to Milwaukee. Soren, one of the children, had come to Milwaukee in 1866. The family stayed in Dodge county for two years and then moved to Minnesota in 1869, coming to Mankato and later to Renville county, where Gunder obtained a homestead in section 2, Sacred Heart township, and the father secured one in the same section. It was all wild prairie land and located on the old government road. Gunder Sorenson made a dugout where the family lived and later built a small log house, part of the present house. Tor Sorenson lived here until his death thirty-five years ago at the age of sixty-five years and his wife died seven years ago at the age of ninety-five years. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and helped organize the first church of that denomination. Gunder and his three brothers owned a team of oxen together and had one wagon. They began breaking up the land, hiring a man to help them and then they broke up land for the neighbors. It was four years before each of them could afford to have a team of oxen. The father and son together owned 208 acres of land, and raised good stock and improved their land. Mr. Sorenson is a shareholder in the Renville Farmers' Elevator Company. He is also a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church



GUNDER SORENSON AND FAMILY



and has been its president for many years. He has helped build three churches, one at Renville, one at Sacred Heart and one at Updahl. Mr. Sorenson was married in 1872 to Mary Rice of Norway, born in 1846 and died in 1878, leaving three children, Clara, now Mrs. Ole Peterson, Tillie, and Mary (deceased). Mr. Sorenson married again to Serena Severson, of Norway, born Sept. 22, 1833, and came to America in 1879.

Thomas Olson, early pioneer and one of the thrifty and prosperous farmers of Sacred Heart township, was born in Norway, April 8, 1840, son of Ole and Gurine Kohlen. There were eight children in the family: Margaret, Thomas, Hellick, Gulliek, Peter, Sven and Stein, who were twins, and Sigrid. The family left Norway in 1858 on a sailing vessel and after thirteen weeks came to America. They had intended to come to Iowa, but meeting some friends on the boat who were going to Houston county they decided to go with them. They left Quebec by way of the St. Lawrence river and the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes and came to Milwaukee. From there they went by rail to Prairie du Chien, going from there by steamboat to La Crosse. When they came to Houston they farmed on shares the first two years; then the father bought some railroad land in the valley near Houston and built a log house. He had a team of oxen and began farming, remaining here until 1866, when they came to Renville county. Thomas pre-empted a claim of 160 acres in section 5, in Sacred Heart. The parents took up a claim adjoining. A sod dugout was built on the father's place and Thomas stayed with them while his place was getting started. He built a log house with a sod roof on his own place, using split logs for the floor. He hewed tables and bedsteads and shelves out of split logs. The nearest markets were Redwood Falls and New Ulm, which were reached by ox team. The first wheat was thrashed by flail on the ground and part of it was stamped by the oxen, the crop being about 200 bushels in all. He took this to Redwood Falls and the miller said there was ice in it and gave him barely 100 pounds of flour for it. He was a very ambitious man and improved his place and gradually increased it till now he has 680 acres of land where he lives and over 2,000 acres of land in various places. The log cabin has been replaced by better houses, the last house being a very fine modern building. He started out with a yoke of oxen, a cow, a breaking plow and one wagon and now he has fine modern machinery and raises a fine breed of stock, specializing in Red Duroc hogs. He is regarded as the most prosperous farmer in the county. Mr. Olson has been a member of the school board and is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and was one of its first trustees. He is a member of the Farmers' Elevator at Sacred Heart. Mr. Olson has never aspired to public offices but is well liked and is well known for his

hospitality. In 1872 Mr. Olson was married to Gorra Knudson, who died in 1877 at the age of thirty-five. There were three children one of whom died in infancy. Those living are Josephine, who is a teacher, and Ingeborg, who married Bernt Olson and lives at Sacred Heart. Five years later he married Anna Larson, of Norway, who came to America in 1881. She was born Nov. 22, 1852, and was the daughter of Lars and Ingeborg (Leer-ing). Six children were born to this second marriage: Louis, Olena, Tim, a bookkeeper in St. Paul; Marie, a teacher; Hilda and Henry.

Gustav P. Mangerud, a leading citizen of Sacred Heart, was born in Sacred Heart township, this county, Feb. 14, 1872, son of Peter Martinson and Anna (Dalager) Martinson, the sturdy pioneers. Gustav P. Mangerud was reared on the home farm, and remained on the home farm until the age of twenty-three. In the meantime, by attending the district schools and by much reading of worthy books he had acquired a good education, and to further perfect this mental training he then entered the Willmar Seminary at Willmar, Minnesota, graduating in 1895. He then entered the furniture business at Granite Falls for three years. He found, however, that he needed outdoor life, and accordingly purchased a farm of 160 acres in Hawk Creek township. He also purchased 200 acres in section 24, Hawk Creek township, and section 19, Sacred Heart township. These farms he still owns and rents. On them he has made many improvements and successfully carried on general farming for many years. In 1910 he came to Sacred Heart village and engaged in the land, loan and insurance business. He has built up a big business and enjoys the confidence and high respect of all who know him. There being no attorney in Sacred Heart, and Mr. Mangerud being well versed in the law, his services are much in demand in giving legal advice and in drawing legal papers. Mr. Mangerud is doing efficient work as clerk of the village of Sacred Heart. He served as clerk of the school board for several years, and for several years was superintendent of the Sunday school of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Sacred Heart. He has also served in many other positions of private trust and public honor. Mr. Mangerud was married July 13, 1898, to Emma Edman, born in East Granite Falls, Minn., Aug. 18, 1873, daughter of Edward and Lena Edman, natives of Sweden. The father was killed on the railroad and the mother still lives in East Granite Falls.

Peter Martinson (Mangerud), a worthy pioneer farmer and blacksmith of Sacred Heart township, was born in Norway, in 1840, and came to America in 1866. After living in St. Peter, Minn., one year he came to Renville county and homesteaded 160 acres in section 9, Sacred Heart township. He built a blacksmith shop, and did smithing work for the pioneers, at the same





ERNEST SCHUMACHER AND FAMILY, 1897

time attending to the work of developing his farm. He and his family underwent all the privations and hardships of pioneer life and had their part in the general upbuilding of the community. He was killed in a runaway accident Sept. 22, 1886. Peter Martinson (Mangerud) was married at St. Peter, in 1867, to Anna Dalager, who was born in Norway, May 9, 1842, came to America in 1866, and now lives in Sacred Heart village. Their children are: Lena, Gustav, Hannah, Alfred, Marie and Peter, all of whom are living.

Ernst Schumacher, now deceased, was born in Germany, Oct. 7, 1846, son of Gustav and Marie Schumacher, likewise natives of Germany. He attended the public schools of his fatherland, underwent a course of military training, grew to manhood and learned the shoemaker's trade. In 1872 he came to America and located in Milwaukee, where he worked at his trade as a cobbler. Nov. 7, 1874, he married Johanna Radiske, who was born in Germany, Sept. 20, 1853, daughter of Frederick and Charlotte (Wilke) Radiske, natives of Germany. A son, Ernest, was born Oct. 13, 1876; a daughter, Helen, June 16, 1878; and another daughter, Emma, April 4, 1880. In 1881, Mr. Schumacher brought his family to Minnesota. After living six weeks in New Ulm, in Brown county, they moved to the village of Courtland, in Nicollet county, and there he conducted a shoestore for some eighteen months. While there, a daughter, Louisa, was born March 1, 1883. In 1883 he purchased 160 acres of land in section 27, Cairo township, Renville county. A few acres of this land had been broken and a log cabin had been built, into which Mr. Schumacher and his family moved. He proceeded to break and develop his land, planted a grove and shade trees and, in time, developed a fine farm, and there followed general diversified farming until his death, Nov. 10, 1902. He was a kind and loving husband and father and a considerate and helpful neighbor. The farm is known and registered as "Ideal Stock Farm," and since the death of Mr. Schumacher the farm has been most successfully managed by Mrs. Schumacher and her sons. In 1903 a fine modern home was erected, 18 by 26, with an ell, 18 by 20, and a kitchen, 10 by 20 feet. It is a two-story house with full basement, seven rooms and hot air heat. In 1890 the large barn was built, 40 by 72, for the housing of stock and hay, accommodating about fifty head of stock and having a capacity of fifty tons of hay. The family raise Holstein cattle, Chester White swine, Barred Rock chickens, Bronze turkeys and Pearl guineas. The large silo, 14 by 40 feet, has a capacity of 140 tons of ensilage. In 1914, at the Benson corn show, they were awarded first prize for Renville county on a single ear of corn. They have also a good orchard containing apples of several varieties, of plums and compass cherries, and an abundance of small fruit

and berries. In 1911, Mrs. Schumacher purchased a 1912 model, five-passenger Studebaker automobile, one of the first automobiles in the community. This adds much to the comfort and pleasure of the family, as well as to the usefulness of the farm. The younger children were all born on the farm. The complete list of children is as follows: Ernest, born Oct. 13, 1876, now a carpenter at Effington, South Dakota; Helen, born June 16, 1878, now Mrs. Carl Schirmeister, of Closter, New Jersey; Emma, born April 4, 1880, at home; Louisa, born March 1, 1883, Mrs. Wm. Becherer, of Colby, Wis.; Pauline, born Oct. 17, 1884, wife of Theodore Kaegbein, a contractor of Fairfax; Otto W., born April 14, 1886, a farmer near Ft. Ridgely; G. Adolph, born June 9, 1890, and Albert, born July 28, 1894, who are on the home farm. The family are all members of and contributors to the German Lutheran church of Fairfax.

Gilbert S. Weaver, V. S., connected with the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, as inspector in charge, of the Hog Cholera Demonstration Station at Olivia, was born near London, in Madison county, Ohio, March 31, 1886, son of Joseph and Luenma (Smith) Weaver, and grandson of Abram Weaver and Joseph Smith, who came respectively from Virginia and Maryland, and settled in Ohio in the early days. After passing through the common schools he attended the Wittenberg Academy at Springfield, Ohio, two years and Nelson's Business College, in the same city, one year. Then he entered the College of Veterinary Medicine of the Ohio State University and graduated June 25, 1908. He entered the government service on Aug. 10, 1908, was stationed in Chicago, Ill., until 1913, was then in Crawfordsville, Ind., for eight months, and came to Olivia in 1914. Dr. Weaver was married Oct. 17, 1909, at Newport, Kentucky, to Jessie Goodfellow, daughter of Scott and Annabelle (Smith) Goodfellow, of the state of Ohio.

Hans Jepson, one of the prosperous farmers of Sacred Heart township, was born Nov. 4, 1855, in Schleswig, Holstein, Germany, son of Peter and Marie (Hansen) Jepson. There were five children: Christina, Anna, Mary, Zelia and Hans. Hans was the first of the family to come to the United States, coming in 1873 and landing at New York. Then he traveled on to St. Peter, Minnesota, where he joined an uncle, Fred Schroeder, who brought him to Renville county. For five and a half years he worked on the farm of his uncle, then he bought 40 acres of land in Sacred Heart township and began farming for himself. He built a frame house and had a horse team and two cows. After two years he bought 80 acres in section 14, in the same township, and has lived there ever since. He has improved the farm and increased it so that now he owns 160 acres. He keeps a good grade of stock.

Mr. Jepson is a stockholder in the Renville Farmers' Elevator. He has served on the school board and is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Renville, and is a trustee of that church.

His brothers and sisters all came to America and the parents were ready to come when the father died in 1877 at the age of fifty-seven years. The mother came over alone and died in Renville county in 1891 at the age of seventy-five years.

In January, 1879, Mr. Jepson was married to Ingeborg Berger, born April 1, 1861, in Nebraska, daughter of Berger S. and Martha (Ingebretson) Berger. Mr. and Mrs. Jepson have had twelve children, of whom eleven are living: Peter, Benjamin, Matilda, Edward, Mary, Ida (deceased), Emma, Henry, Anna, Tena and Elvira (twins) and Sadie.

Berger S. Berger was born in Norway and there married Martha Ingebretson. In the early fifties they started for America, and after a long and tiresome voyage of fourteen weeks reached Quebec. They were then childless, two of their children having died in Norway and one on the ocean. From Quebec, Mr. and Mrs. Berger started by way of the lakes and canals and came to Muskegon, Michigan. Here they became sick with the cholera. When they were well they left for Iowa and then went to Nebraska. There they found the Indians very hostile and they were soon back in Iowa, having driven 300 miles in six weeks, in many places over corduroy roads, in an uncovered wagon, whose wheels were round disks of wood cut from trees. They left Iowa in 1872 and came to Sacred Heart township, Renville county, where they homesteaded in section 14 and also obtained a tree claim. A log house was built, 14 by 14 feet, with board floor and sod roof. Once it caught fire and water had to be carried to put it out and even all the milk on hand was used. The nearest market was at Willmar, which was reached by ox team. Oftentimes the corn was ground in the coffee mill. Mr. Berger was the first thresher in the county and began with a horse power machine. He developed and improved his farm, erecting modern buildings and increasing the farm to 320 acres. There were six children in the family: Edward, Benjamin, Ingeborg, Sever, Matilda and Hans. The family were members of the Lutheran church and the early services of the church were held in his log cabin. He helped organize this church. He died in 1902 at the age of seventy-eight years and his wife died in 1901 at the age of seventy-four years.

Halver Christiansen Aarnes, a well-known farmer of Sacred Heart township, was born in Norway, Jan. 26, 1839, son of Christian and Johannah (Halverson) Aarnes. There were eight children in the family: Halver, Christian, Martin, Andrene, Gunne, Karen, Eli and Gulbrand. Halver Aarnes was the first of the

children to come to the United States, coming in 1869. He landed at New York and traveled on to Racine, Wisconsin, where he remained for seventeen months, working as a blacksmith in the Mitchell Wagon Factory. In 1871 he moved to Renville county, where he secured a homestead of 80 acres in section 8, in Sacred Heart township, now a suburb of Sacred Heart village. He filed on his land and began work on it. There were then no improvements on the place. He made a dugout, where he and his wife lived for a time. He also worked on the St. Peter & Winona Railroad for a time to earn some money, as he had not a thing to start with. The second spring he bought a team of oxen and two cows. By dint of hard work Mr. Aarnes has improved his farm and now has fine groves of trees, a modern house and buildings. He raises a good grade of stock and has added 40 acres of railroad land to his farm.

Mr. Aarnes has held several township offices and has been a member of the school board. He has been a member and director of the Sacred Heart Creamery. He is also a faithful member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and has been an active worker there since its first days. At first there was no church building and the meetings were held in the various homes. Mr. Aarnes was a member of the building committee and helped build the church. He has been a trustee and also has been the secretary of this church for many years.

Mr. Aarnes was united in marriage at Racine, Wisconsin, to Kari Semmingsen Andraae, of Norway, who came to America on the same boat as Mr. Aarnes did. She was born May 3, 1843. Seven children have been born to these parents: Carl (deceased); Samuel, a graduate of Luther College of Decorah, Iowa, who is now living with his parents on the home farm; Henry, an electrician, now of Minneapolis; Karen, now Mrs. Albert Slattum, of Viking, Minnesota, who has two children, Harold Clifford and Helen Maria, also a stepson, Arthur Morris; Rikka, a student of Sacred Heart high school and teacher of eight years' experience, now in the photographic work in Minneapolis; Ida, a student of Sacred Heart high school and a teacher of twelve years' experience; and Christian, who died in infancy. In addition to the public school teaching of Rikka and Ida, Rikka, Ida and Karen have all taught parochial school.

Engebret Hanson Docken, a worthy and honored pioneer, was born in Norway, Dec. 7, 1839 and, in 1866, determined to try his fortunes in the new world. After a long voyage and a difficult trip overland he reached Fillmore county, this state, where he was contented to remain three years. In 1869, with an ox team, he started for Renville county, and after looking about for a time took a homestead of eighty acres in section 8, Hawk Creek township. For a year he lived with Peter Simonson. During

that period he erected his log cabin and a sod stable and started breaking his land. The family moved into the cabin and there remained for seventeen years. Like the other pioneers, he and his family underwent many hardships and privations. Times were hard, money was scarce, provisions were high, the black-birds and the grasshoppers devoured the crops, the blizzards often kept them confined in their cabin for weeks at a time, the nearest market for their grain was at Willmar, and that also was the nearest place where they could secure supplies. But they toiled ahead, year after year, made many improvements on the place, set out groves, erected a frame house, a good barn and suitable outbuildings, and there found prosperity and happiness. Mr. Doeken took an interest in the progress of the community, served for a number of years on the school board. After his death, in 1905, his widow continued to conduct the home place until 1911, when she rented it to her sons, Albert and Otto.

Engebret Hanson Doeken was married June 3, 1869, at Winona, to Anne Stavne, who was born in Norway, Oct. 27, 1840, came to America in 1867 and located in Fillmore county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Doeken had nine children: Hans, Olena, Hammah, Martin, Clara, Albert, Emma, Otto and an unnamed infant. Hans was born Sept. 13, 1870, and died May 9, 1872. Olena was born Sept. 20, 1871. Hammah was born Dec. 28, 1873, married C. H. Romo, of Hawk Creek township, and has three children: Alice, Harold and Esther. Martin was born Feb. 16, 1876. Clara was born Oct. 21, 1878, married John Romo, of Wang township, and has two children, Gladys and Eveline. Albert was born May 29, 1881. Emma was born Feb. 28, 1884. Otto was born May 29, 1885. The youngest was born July 19, 1888, and died the same day. Olena and Emma keep house for their mother and brothers. The family faith is that of Our Saviour's Norwegian Lutheran church at Sacred Heart.

Einar Nelson was born at the Hunsager Farm, Hoff Solar, Norway, on Sept. 8, 1829, and died April 18, 1915. At the age of fifteen he was confirmed in Hoff church, Norway, and he remained a true Christian all his life, attending services whenever his health permitted. July, 1865, he immigrated to this country, locating in Wisconsin, where he remained for only a short while, going from there to Preston, Fillmore county, Minnesota. Here he took up the trade of blacksmith, working at same for about three years, and then went to St. Paul and worked as foreman on the Ames Farm near there for about one year. During the early days in this section Mr. Nelson followed the occupation of blacksmith, as well as that of farming, and until Fairfax became a village, large enough to support a blacksmith shop, he worked at his trade and enjoyed a good business, being looked

upon as the best workman of his kind in this section. Mr. Nelson was of a kind and unassuming nature, and was loved and respected by all who knew him. Being a pioneer, he suffered many of the hardships of the early days. Mr. Nelson was married July 13, 1868, to Thea Johnson. Shortly after their marriage they moved to a homestead in Ridgely township, Nicollet county. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson had the following children: Eliza, Mrs. Simon Hongly, of Camp township; Nellie, Mrs. Peter Hornseth, of Thief River Falls, Minnesota; Nels E., a farmer of Cairo township; Palma, Mrs. Andrew G. Loftness, of Thief River Falls, Minnesota; Einar, died in infancy in 1878; Einar E., member of Nelson Brothers at Fairfax; Peter, on the old home farm in Nicollet county; and Ole E., member of the Nelson Brothers firm at Fairfax.

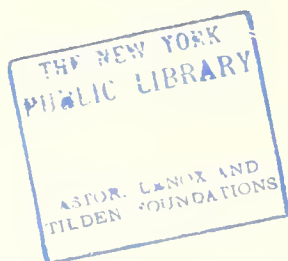
Einar E. Nelson, a successful young man of this county, was born in Nicollet county on June 2, 1878, son of Einar and Thea (Johnson) Nelson. At the age of twenty-five he bought the home farm in Ridgely township, section 8, Nicollet county, and, with his brother, Peter, engaged in the buying and feeding of cattle and hogs, and getting them ready for the market. They have been very successful in this work and are still engaged in it. Mr. Nelson is also a member of the firm of Nelson Brothers, who conduct a large garage in Fairfax. June 6, 1912, he was married to Ella Hagestad. Her parents, Mathias and Martha (Berg) Hagestad, live on a farm in Camp township. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have one child, Eldred Merrell, born Aug. 7, 1913.

Ole E. Nelson was born in Ridgely township, Nicollet county, July 12, 1882, son of Einar and Thea (Johnson) Nelson. He grew up on the home farm and later attended the Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, for three years. From 1902 to 1904 he remained at home. June 20, 1904, he secured a homestead in Marshall county, near Thief River Falls, where he remained for five years. Then he spent four years at Highland Park College, at Des Moines, taking up the civil and electrical engineering courses. For three months he worked in a garage at Minneapolis and now is in a garage with his brother, Einar E., at Fairfax, under the name of Nelson Brothers. During 1914-1915 a fine brick building, 44 by 130 feet, was erected. It is a one-story building with part basement, and costs about \$17,000. They handle Studebaker cars and all accessories, and have a well-equipped repairing shop.

Nels E. Nelson, a successful farmer of Cairo township, was born in Nicollet county, this state, May 21, 1871, son of Einar and Thea (Johnson) Nelson. He attended the district schools and the Mankato Business College, and farmed at home until 1902, when he bought 160 acres in section 33, in Melville township, this county, where he lived for nine years. Then he sold



NELSON BROTHERS GARAGE
OLE E. AND EINAR E. NELSON



this farm and, in 1911, bought 200 acres in section 20, in Cairo township, where he is still living, having just completed a fine modern residence and all new outbuildings.

Mr. Nelson was assessor in Melville township for two years and supervisor in Cairo township for three years, and is still serving. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Fairfax and also in the Renville Rural Telephone Company of Fairfax. May 22, 1902, Mr. Nelson was married to Alma Bergley, born Jan. 31, 1879. Her father, Andrew Bergley, a farmer on section 23, Camp township, came to Renville county in 1873. Her mother's maiden name was Lena Johamassen. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have two children, Arthur, born July 12, 1903, and Tillie, born March 5, 1905. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Michael Holden, a pioneer, was born in the province of Quebec, Canada, Jan. 25, 1849, son of James and Catherine (McGinley) Holden. James Holden was a farmer, who came to Minnesota in 1868 and homesteaded eighty acres of land in section 26, Henryville township, and lived there until 1892. Then he moved to Morton, where he died March 10, 1905, at the age of seventy-eight. He served on the township board for three years and on the school board four years. His wife died in 1907, at the age of eighty-one years. Michael Holden homesteaded eighty acres in section 6, Henryville township, in 1868, and moved there from St. Peter, Minnesota. He built a log cabin and then worked on the railway and in the pineries for four years. He remained on the farm until 1900, when he moved to Olivia. After eight years he moved to Morton. He served as chairman of the township board for eleven years; was assessor nine years and school clerk twenty-six years. For four years he was a member of the village council of Morton and served on the school board six years. He buys and ships stock in Olivia and Morton. He also owns 240 acres of land. He is a member of the K. of C. Mr. Holden was married June 29, 1872, to Bridget Barkey, born March 18, 1850, and died Dec. 10, 1888. She was the daughter of Patrick and Mary Barkey. Eleven children were born: Mary A., born March 22, 1873, and died Oct. 6, 1881; Thomas M., born Sept. 29, 1874, at Montevideo; James P., born Jan. 6, 1876, of Spokane, Wash.; John C., born Nov. 30, 1877, and died Oct. 4, 1881; Catherine E., born Dec. 1, 1879, wife of John Haunaher, of Fargo, North Dakota; Francis J., born Oct. 28, 1881, of Minneapolis; Anna J., born Oct. 2, 1883, wife of Albert Barmer, of Fargo, North Dakota; William H., born Nov. 8, 1884, of Colorado Springs; Agnes, born Nov. 3, 1885, and died the same day; Bridget M., born Feb. 6, 1887, wife of John Ivers, of Minneapolis; and Agnes M., born Dec. 5, 1888, wife of John Hopman, a farmer of Henryville. He was married a second time to Mary A.

Williams, on July 15, 1889. She was born July 15, 1859, and was the daughter of Michael Williams, a farmer of Norfolk, and his wife, Margaret (Foley) Williams. By this marriage there was one child, Mary Angela Margaret, born May 16, 1891, now of Minneapolis. The family faith is that of the Catholic church.

Henry A. Peterson, one of the influential farmers of Sacred Heart township, was born in Sweden, March 1, 1861. His step-father, John Peterson, came to Goodhue county in the early sixties and in 1868 located in section 20, in Sacred Heart township, where he secured a preemption right to 160 acres, later relinquishing it for a homestead of 80 acres. Here he built a log cabin and began breaking the land with an ox team. He used to bring his produce to New Ulm and later to Willmar. Coffee, tea and such luxuries were dispensed with, and in their place were substituted ground wheat for coffee, or toasted bread crumbs and berries were used in making tea. He had two cows which he had brought with him from Goodhue county. He improved his farm, bought more land, increasing it to 280 acres and built new buildings.

Mr. Peterson was interested in the public affairs of the township and held the position of supervisor several terms. He also served on the school board. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and the first services of that church were held in his cabin. John Peterson died in 1883, at the age of forty-six years, and his wife died at the age of sixty-six years. Henry Peterson grew to manhood in the township of Sacred Heart, and received his early education in the country school held in the old log school house. He remained on the home farm and, after his father's death, took upon himself the responsibility of the home. After his marriage he moved to his present location, which he had purchased in 1891, moving the next year. It was a tract of 240 acres. It has since been increased to 300 acres and is a well-kept and fine looking farm, known as the "Altamont Farm." He raises a good grade of stock and carries on general farming, using the most modern machinery. Mr. Peterson has held several township offices and has served on the school board. He has been greatly interested in all the co-operative movements of his county and is a member of the Co-operative Milling Company, the Co-operative Elevator, and the Co-operative Creamery. He was the secretary and manager of the creamery when it was organized. In 1881 he represented his district in the State Legislature on the Alliance ticket. He came before the people on the People's ticket later, but was not then elected. Mr. Peterson was united in marriage to Bertha Kringsberg, born in Sweden. She came to America in 1869 with her parents, who located in Hawk Creek township, becoming pioneers of that section. Five children were born to this marriage: Mabel, a graduate of the

Sacred Heart high school and now studying music; Spencer, who is attending high school; Ethel C., who is attending the state university; Bertram, a student at high school, and Thelma, who attends the rural schools.

Olof Kringsberg, deceased, an early pioneer of Hawk Creek township, was born in Vermeland, Sweden, Sept. 9, 1836. He came to America in 1869, locating at Hawk Creek the same year, where he took a homestead in section 2, of eighty acres. He first lived in a dugout and later built a log cabin which, in time, was replaced by a frame house. He planted groves, erected buildings and became one of the representative farmers. At the time of his death he had 360 acres. He died Sept. 29, 1901. He was married in Sweden, Aug. 9, 1865, to Martha Peterson, born in Vermeland, Sweden, March 20, 1847, and died in Sacred Heart village, Nov. 1, 1913. Twelve children were born to these parents: Bertha, Matilda, Ole, Albert, Emelia, Ida, Hilmer, Emil, Peter, Peter, Mathilda and Ludvig.

Johannes Haug, better known as John Haug, was born in Norway, Jan. 13, 1844, son of Johannes and Bertha (Gjerdrum) Haug, who were farmers in Norway. There were eight children in the family: Severen, Martin, Arne, Karmelius, Johannes, Johan, Bertha and Lena. John was the only one of the family who came to America, coming to Quebec in 1866 and going immediately to Minnesota. He located at Northfield and for three years worked around among the farmers. In 1868 he secured a homestead in Renville county, in section 28, in Sacred Heart township. He did not move upon his claim until 1869, after his marriage. He built a log cabin, 14 by 16 feet, and, with one cow and an ox team, began farming upon this tract of 80 acres. All supplies were hauled from New Ulm. The land was wild prairie land without a tree on the place, no roads, but in time Mr. Haug set out groves of trees, built modern buildings and barns and increased his farm to 450 acres. Mr. Haug has held the township offices of supervisor and treasurer, having held the latter position for twenty-five years. He is also a member of the church in his neighborhood and helped organize the first church and was one of its first trustees.

In 1868 Mr. Haug was married in Rice county to Bertha Hoff, born in Norway, Feb. 13, 1851, daughter of Christopher Hoff. She came to Minnesota with her uncle when she was fourteen years old. Mr. and Mrs. Haug have had twelve children: Idan, born Sept. 24, 1869, is now in the machinery business at Winnipeg, Canada. He married Selena Johnson and has four children, Jesse, Esther, Florence and Winfield. Minnie, born May 3, 1871, and died Jan. 30, 1904, was the wife of John Listerud, and left the following children: Hjelmer, Morris, Edna, Eva and Ruth. Barbara, born Jan. 9, 1873, is the wife of Hans Braun,

of Minneapolis, and has three children: Blanchard, Edgar and Cyril. Kaia, born Nov. 6, 1875, now Mrs. Nels Nellerhoe, of Winnipeg, Canada, has three children: Blanche, Alpha and Noel. Lauritz, born June 23, 1878, is in the machinery business with Idan, in Canada, with headquarters at Regina. He married Josephtha Thornby. Clara, born July 9, 1880, was married to Engbret Enestvedt, a farmer of Sacred Heart township. Their children are Odin, Albertha and Johannes. Sigvart, born May 27, 1882, is now on a homestead in Alberta, Canada. Bertha, born Aug. 20, 1884, is now Mrs. Joseph Jacobson, of Sacred Heart village. Harold, born Dec. 5, 1886, is at home. Conrad, born Feb. 19, 1889, is on a homestead in Alberta, Canada. Laura, born May 9, 1891, is at home. Odin, born Dec. 23, 1893, is at home. Mrs. John Haug died May 26, 1912.

William Henry Tillisch, one of the pioneer farmers of Sacred Heart township, was born April 21, 1840, in Norway, son of Ditlev and Ann Elizabeth (Furstenberg) Tillisch, and grandson of William Henry and Sophia Tillisch. William Henry Tillisch, the grandfather, was born in Denmark, moved Sept. 19, 1811, to Norway, became a keeper of the State forest, and died at the age of seventy-five years. His children were: Ditlev, Christian, Rudolph, Paul, William H., Ludwig, Hedrick, Edna and Louisa. The oldest son, Ditlev, entered the military service of Norway, became a captain, and continued until he was eighty-one years of age, when he was honorably retired. He died in 1906 at the age of ninety-four years. His wife was born in 1806 and died in 1899. They were the parents of five children: Frederick, William Henry, Jacob and two who died in infancy. William Henry Tillisch, the subject of this sketch, came to the United States in 1864, locating in Chicago, where he remained one year, and then coming to St. Peter, Minnesota, where he worked in whatever employment he could secure. In the fall of 1870 he came to Renville county. He had owned a homestead near St. Peter, but gave this up for a preemption claim of 80 acres in section 26, in Sacred Heart township. A log building was on the place, and here he started farming with two cows and a team of oxen. The nearest market was Willmar. He suffered many hardships in those early days from the storms and grasshoppers. When he started farming he borrowed money and had to pay an interest of 25 per cent. In 1881 he moved to section 36, where he secured 80 acres, later adding 40 acres more. There were no buildings on the land and he erected frame buildings and improved the land.

Mr. Tillisch has been school clerk for several years. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and has been the secretary for many years, and also helped build the churches at Renville, Sacred Heart and Updahl.

Mr. Tillisch was married to Sophia Matilda Peterson, who was born July 5, 1853, daughter of Andrew J. and Ann Sophia Peterson. Her father died in Sweden and her mother came to the United States in 1871. Mrs. Tillisch died Sept. 24, 1904, and, in 1910, Mr. Tillisch decided to live with his sons in section 36. Five children were born to these parents: Johan Frederick, born Aug. 30, 1871, farms with his brother, Jacob, in section 36, Sacred Heart township. They raise a good grade of stock, having full-blooded Poland-China hogs, full-blooded Percheron horses, and Holstein cattle. Johan Frederick is a member of the Farmers' Elevator at Renville and of the Sacred Heart Consolidated Telephone Company. He also is a member of the Horse Breeders' Association. He has served as the clerk of School District No. 11. Jacob Sophus was born Dec. 30, 1873; Amelia, May 22, 1876; Julius, July 6, 1878, who died in infancy; Nanna, May 11, 1880.

Joseph Anderson, deceased, was born in Sweden, near Wenersborg, Dec. 13, 1842. In 1866 he came to the United States on a sailing vessel, the trip taking eighteen days, and landed at New York. He traveled on to Indiana, where he remained for one year, then he went to St. Peter, Minnesota, where there was a Swedish settlement. He worked on the railroad between Mankato and Janesville for two years, being foreman of a crew of men. However, he had always desired to have a farm of his own, and, in 1870, he moved to Beaver Falls, where he secured a homestead. He and his wife drove from St. Peter with an ox team and a covered wagon, and lived in the wagon until he could build a log cabin. After a year they decided to move to Sacred Heart township and located on section 24, where they obtained 80 acres. No improvements had been made on this land and they moved the log cabin up from Beaver Falls. The land was broken with the ox team and all supplies and material had to be hauled from Willmar, which was the nearest market. At first he had only one cow, but as time passed he improved his farm, bought 80 acres more, built good buildings and erected one of the most modern houses in the county. Mr. Anderson never aspired to any township offices. He was a great lover of trees and flowers and became the pioneer horticulturist of the county and of this part of the state. He not only beautified his own home with shrubs, trees and flowers, but inspired others to do likewise. He believed that fruits of many varieties would thrive in Minnesota and propagated a seedling apple called the "Victoria." During the last years of his life he made a specialty of top-working on hardy trees, thereby growing many choice varieties that could not be grown otherwise. During the time of his early plantings of apple trees, neighbors and others told him he never could grow apples in Minnesota, but he lived to

see the day when his orchards fruited by the hundreds of bushels, and also to see his neighbors following his example by planting trees. He grew during his time more apples and strawberries for market than any man in Renville county.

Mr. Anderson was a member of the Swedish Lutheran church of Sacred Heart and was its first trustee.

In 1870 he was married at St. Peter to Anna Louise Holmberg, born in Smoland, Sweden, Jan. 20, 1841, and died June 11, 1914. Mrs. Anderson was a kind and loving wife and mother, and, as other pioneers, had to work very hard during early days of the county. Mr. Anderson died Sept. 12, 1914. There were seven children, three deceased: Victoria, a graduate of the Renville high school and also of the University of Washington, at Seattle, Wash., and now a teacher in high school at Stanwood, Wash.; Bertha, a graduate of the Central high school in Minneapolis, and now a student at the Bellingham State Normal school at Washington; Eva, who is married, and lives at Seattle, Wash., and Gustaf A., who lives on part of the old homestead.

Gustav Adolph Anderson, a well-known farmer of Sacred Heart township, was born April 8, 1878, on his father's farm in Sacred Heart township. Mr. Anderson has always remained on the home farm, except two years spent in clerking. He now owns 40 acres of the old homestead, where he specializes in fruit-raising. He has erected a fine, all modern cottage home across the road from the old home and there he now resides. He makes a specialty of apples, plums and strawberries, and this season (1915) put on the market over 1,200 bushels of apples. At this writing he owns the largest apple orchard in Renville county. He received his early education at the district schools and completed his studies at the Renville high school. He learned the art of horticulture from his father. Mr. Anderson has been a member of the school board for fifteen years and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Renville. He is a life member of the State Horticultural Society, where much information is gathered pertaining to fruit growing.

Mr. Anderson was married May 22, 1912, to Louis Stensrud, daughter of Ole Stensrud, of Sacred Heart township. She was born Feb. 27, 1886.

Gunder Borstad was born in Norway, Nov. 18, 1840, came to America in 1866, located in Goodhue county, remained there for three years, and, in 1869, came to Renville county and located on a homestead in Camp township, where he died Jan. 2, 1894. He was married Feb. 6, 1864, to Annie Kvaal, who was born in Norway, Dec. 27, 1842, and who lived on the home place until September, 1915. In the family there were seven children: Andrew, who was drowned at the age of nine years; Nels, who died at the age of two years; Inga, who married Olaus Dahl, a farmer

of Camp township; Sarah, who married Louis Dahl, a blacksmith of Dawson, Minn.; Andrew, who operated the home farm until September, 1915; Gurina, who married A. H. Peterson; and Louisa, who married A. C. Wells.

Andrew Borstad, successful farmer and thresher, was born on his father's farm in the southeast quarter of section 16, Camp township, July 31, 1875, son of Gunder and Annie (Kvaal) Borstad. He was reared on the home farm, educated in the public schools, and has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. In September, 1915, he and his mother left the home farm and moved to Franklin, where they purchased a pleasant home in which they now reside. For several years he has devoted his attention every fall to threshing. He has a complete outfit and has been very successful in this line. He is a well-known man and is widely respected. While on the farm, Andrew Borstad and his mother made a home for the mother's sister, whose maiden name was Nickolina Kvaal. She was born Feb. 27, 1848, and was married May 15, 1881, to Hans Peterson, who settled in section 10, Camp township, in 1860, and died there in 1910 at the age of eighty. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

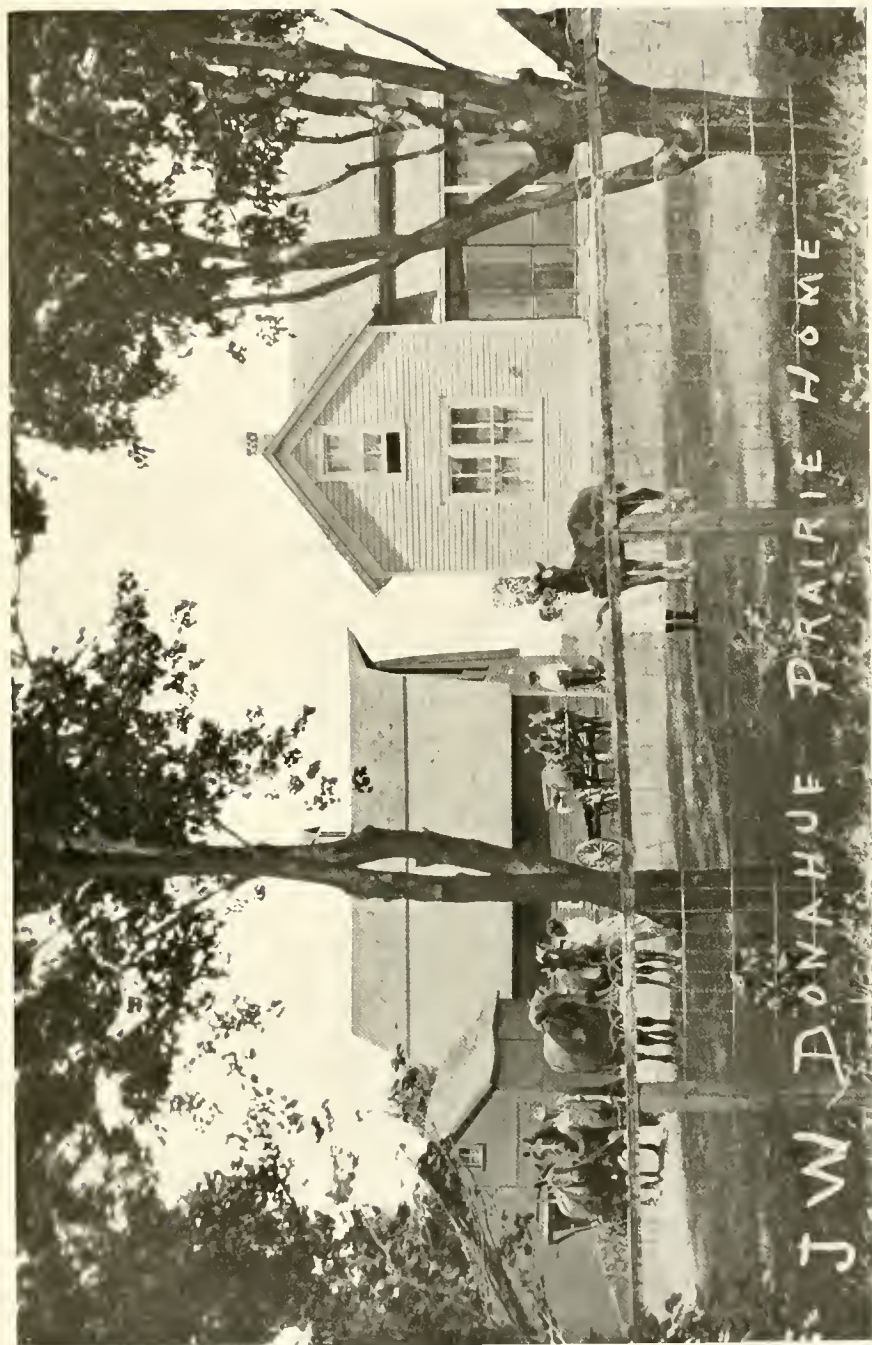
Edward M. Kelly, a prosperous and energetic farmer of Camp township, was born on section 30, Bandon township, April 20, 1882, son of Mathias E. and Ranghild (Jordet) Kelly, and grandson of Erland Kille, whose name was later changed to Erland Kelly. Erland Kelly was born in Norway, May 10, 1810, and brought his family to America in 1868, locating in section 30, Bandon township, in 1869. Mathias E. Kelly was born Oct. 1, 1853, came to America with his parents, became a prominent farmer in Bandon township, and died Feb. 26, 1915. In 1881 he married Ranghild Jordet, who was born April 25, 1881, and still lives on the farm in Bandon. Edward M. Kelly was reared on the farm, passed through the district schools, entered the Red Wing Seminary and graduated in 1899. A year later he graduated from the Mankato Commercial College. Then he clerked two years for Kelly & Johnson, in Franklin, and was manager of his father's store in Franklin until 1910. During the two next years he was engaged in the real estate business at Mankato and then engaged in farming, purchasing 280 acres of land in section 5, Camp township, in partnership with his brother, Sivert M., in 1912. He raises Holstein cattle and Poland-China swine, feeding one earload per year for the market, and has one acre of fruit, two of alfalfa, and 200 acres of land under cultivation. He is a stockholder in the creamery and telephone companies at Franklin and is a member of the Hauge's Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Kelly was united in marriage Jan. 2, 1904, to Clara Gunderson, who was born Aug. 20, 1879, daugh-

ter of Ole Gunderson, born April 1, 1839, in Norway, now a tailor in Mankato, and his wife, Ingeborg Gunderson. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kelly: Inez Ruth, born April 21, 1905; Marlow Osmond, born Dec. 9, 1908; Kenneth Edgar, born May 18, 1911; and Vincent Herbert, born April 26, 1914.

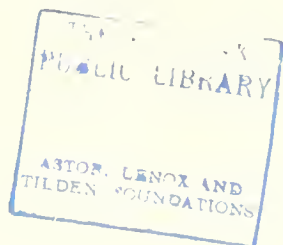
John W. Donahue, a well-known farmer in the county, was born in Le Sueur county, Nov. 17, 1860. His father, also a farmer, came to Minnesota in 1858, and died in 1890, at the age of seventy-five. His mother, Honora Sullivan, died in 1898, at the age of sixty-three. Mr. Donahue remained on his father's farm until he was twenty-five years of age, then he rented the home farm for about two years. In 1887 he came to Renville county, where he rented a farm for one year. He drove into the county with a team, also driving a few head of cattle. He underwent the hardships of pioneer life and had his share in the upbuilding of the county. In July of the next year he bought 80 acres in section 5, Cairo township, where he is still living, now owning 160 acres. He has improved his farm, in 1913 he built a barn, 32 by 40 feet, with 12-foot posts, hip roof, which holds 30 tons of hay. In 1915 he built a cement stone silo for his dairy herd. He has considerable stock, 10 horses of Belgian breed, 20 cattle of the Shorthorn and Red Pole breed, and also a large flock of Plymouth Rock chickens. In 1910 Mr. Donahue took a trip to Texas, where he bought a farm near St. Paul, San Patricia county, in that state, which he still owns.

Dr. Donahue has served on the school board for two years, and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company and also secretary of the Fairfax Co-operative Creamery. He was married March 8, 1886, to Antonia Hirsch, who was born June 8, 1860. Her parents, Francis and Frances Hirsch, live on a farm in Le Sueur county. Six children were born to this marriage, only one of whom is still living. Two died in 1891 of diphtheria, John Henry, aged 4, and Rogers Joseph, aged 2. James Patrick, who is still living, was born Dec. 31, 1891. Sept. 30, 1900, two died, Honora Antonia, aged 5, and George William, aged 2. Andrew Edward was killed in 1910 by a team running away with him.

William A. Schummers, of Olivia, was born in Caledonia, Houston county, Minnesota, Nov. 21, 1884. His father was a cabinet maker of Luxemburg, Germany, and came to this state about forty years ago. William A. received his early schooling in the schools of his locality and attended the University of Minnesota, receiving the degree of B. A. in 1907. During the years 1907-1910, he served as principal of the graded school at Buffalo Lake. From 1910 to 1913 he was superintendent of the high school at Heron Lake. Then he became the district agent of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company and has held this



JOHN W. DONAHUE PRAIRIE HOME







S. S. Gacenslit

position ever since. He was married to Katherine Mathews, of Lake City, in 1910, and one child has blessed this union, William M.

Stephen Abbot Greenslit was born on a farm near Warren, Washington county, state of Vermont, Jan. 28, 1833. He is the son of Stephen and Zuriah Shaw Greenslit, who, at the time of the birth of the subject of this sketch, were putting forth strenuous efforts to wrest a living and some profit from their stubborn broad acres among the Green Mountains of that New England state. Stephen A. Greenslit was one of the eldest of six children, as they grew up around the family fireside there was help enough on the farm to allow some of the older ones, at times, to work out at various undertakings, thus earn something for themselves, and help out the family in many ways, and so we find him as he grew up to young manhood, working away from home much of the time, but attending school at every opportunity presented to him, which consisted mostly of only three months' country school in the winter-time; being a true type of old New England Yankee, he followed the traditions of that day and stood by, helping his parents, until he was "one-and-twenty" years of age.

Being a young man of energy and some prudence, at this age he was a little to the good, financially; and, seeing no very brilliant prospects in the immediate vicinity of his birthplace, he did what many another New Englander has done, before and since his time, went West, with a fine physical make-up, high hopes and a determination to win for himself an honorable name and a place worthy of note in the activities where he should dwell.

In the year 1854 he left Vermont with two other young men from his home town, and came to Reedsburg, Wisconsin. The trip from Vermont to Wisconsin, at that early day, was some undertaking, and these three young men could tell quite a story all about that same undertaking if drawn out in the right kind of way, for they are not as young as they used to be.

For two years, after coming to Wisconsin, he followed lumbering as a vocation, in the woods, in the saw mills and driving rafts down the Wisconsin river. The work was some strenuous, but full of action, healthy, and giving muscles of steel.

Oct. 5, 1856, he was married to Manora E. Loomis, of Brookfield, Vermont, who had come to Reedsburg the year previous, to keep house for her brothers.

Immediately after their marriage they went to Dodge county, Minnesota, where he took up a claim of eighty acres of land, near the village of Kasso; a few years later he bought an adjoining eighty acres, giving him a 160-acre farm.

In the meantime, his parents, through business reverses, had lost their home and came to live there, and Stephen, like a duti-

ful son, provided them a home, giving to them the small house in which he lived and 40 acres of land, building himself another house on the remaining land.

He later sold this farm and bought a farm of 120 acres near Mantorville, in the same state. This farm was in the timber, and after two years of clearing land, burning brush and logs, with plowing among the roots, he decided that a timber farm was not to his liking, so, having an opportunity, he sold the place, and, hearing of Renville county through Rufus F. Richardson, a neighbor who had, the fall before, bought land in Birch Cooley township, he accompanied Mr. Richardson when he moved to his land, in 1868, to spy out the country and see how he would like it. He was so well pleased with the looks of the country that, before he returned to his home in Dodge county, he had bought 320 acres of land from D. S. Hall, on sections 26 and 27, in Birch Cooley township, returning to his family mighty well pleased with his bargain, and with the country generally.

In the spring of 1869 he, with his wife and two children, with several ox teams, loaded all their worldly goods into wagons, driving quite a herd of stock, took up their trek from Dodge county to their new home to be, on the then wild prairie of Renville county. The trip was full of incidents worth relating, but exposure to the elements and hardships to the pioneer trail blazers was the expected portion, as they turned their faces to the west with determination and hope.

The family, with their stock and all their belongings, arrived at their destination on this new purchased Birch Cooley half-section of land early in March, 1869; the day was cold, and they came to the place at night, after a hard day's drive with their ox teams and drove of stock. The good wife found a small board shanty which she would have to call home, for the time; this was half-full of snow, which had to be shoveled out before formal possession could be taken, but that difficulty was soon overcome, as others had been, and they soon found themselves settled upon their new possessions, which took them no great length of time to put in shape for business farming, and some degree of comfort.

Stephen Abbot Greenslit was bound to make good in his farming operations; he was determined to get to the front; his keen foresight saw a future for land in Renville county, so he kept buying more land, and, year by year, adding to his increasing acres, until now, with his son, John Fremont, owns over 1,400 acres in Birch Cooley township, valued at the least at \$100 an acre. In 1868 he paid D. S. Hall \$2,000 for 320 acres. This shows that Stephen was looking ahead all the time.

His good wife died Jan. 8, 1900. This was a great blow to Mr. Greenslit. She was an energetic business woman; they coun-

selled together on all matters, and he took her advice and leaned on her greatly for suggestions in important business matters. So great was her loss to him, and so much was he broken up by her death, that he soon retired, and turned the entire management of his farming business over to his son, John Fremont, who is something of a "chip off the old block," and then some.

Stephen Abbot Greenslit, while making no great noise about it, is one of those old-time Vermont Republicans, politically, as noted by naming his son John Fremont, after the first Republican candidate for President of the United States. He is strong on the temperance question and believes in a "dry town." He is a supporter of the church, a clean, upright man, an honor to his children, and they can be proud of him. At 83 years of age, he is still enjoying life in his large modern house, with his son's family at Morton, with the good will of all the people among whom he lives.

John Fremont Greenslit, an eminently prosperous and progressive farmer of Morton, was born at Kasson, Minnesota, Aug. 24, 1863, son of Stephen A. and Manora E. (Loomis) Greenslit. At the age of twenty, John Fremont Greenslit became the manager of his father's farm in Birch Cooley township, and since then he has handled all the business pertaining to it. He has been a heavy feeder of cattle and hogs for twenty years. He feeds about 100 cattle per year and 200 hogs and prepares them for the market. He also keeps about 300 cattle on hand all the time. He now owns 1,400 acres of land, all in Birch Cooley township and nearly all in one body. About 1,100 acres are under the plow, 400 acres are in corn, 500 acres are in wheat, and 200 acres are in oats. There are four complete sets of buildings, besides the home in the edge of Morton. He employs four married men all the time, who live on these farms, and several men besides. He sells about \$10,000 worth of cattle and \$10,000 worth of grain each year. In 1900 he built a new home on the outskirts of Morton. It is a large, modern, fifteen-room house, 32 by 52 feet, with 20-foot posts, and has a full basement. It is equipped with hot water heat, electric lights, electric power also being used for washing, sweeping, and so forth. There is water throughout the house, with pressure tanks in the basement. The house is finished in oak downstairs and has hard maple floors. There is a two-story sleeping porch at the rear. The house cost \$10,000. Mr. Greenslit was married to Ethel Morse, Jan. 31, 1891. She was born Oct. 21, 1871, daughter of Lewis E. and Elizabeth (Adams) Morse. Eleven children were born to this union: Gladys, Irvin, Elva, Lloyd, Harold, Bernice, Elsie, Berton, Vernon, Glen and Kenneth.

Lewis E. Morse was born in Massachusetts in 1835 and came to Minnesota in 1855, where he engaged in farming, in Houston

county, for about three years. In 1880 he secured a homestead in section 47, in Beaver Falls township, Renville county, but returned to Massachusetts and engaged in carpenter work for about five years, coming back to Beaver Falls township in 1865 and locating on section 2, where he secured timber land by "laying" some half-breed script. Here he farmed until his death, July 12, 1896. He was married May 21, 1863, to Elizabeth Adams, of Massachusetts, who died June 1, 1910, at the age of sixty-eight years. Three children were born: Sarah A., of Redwood Falls, Minnesota, widow of Edwin A. Morse, who died June 29, 1904; Ethel and Berton, who died Aug. 3, 1906.

Henry H. Neuenburg was born in Le Sueur county, Minnesota, Sept. 1, 1867, son of Herman and Cecelia (Shoemaker) Neuenburg. (The father was born in Germany, came to America in 1848, homesteaded land in Le Sueur county, this state, remained there until 1876, then bought land in Beaver Falls township this county, from which he retired in 1889, when he moved to North Redwood, Minnesota, where he died in 1909. The mother died Dec. 19, 1913.) H. H. Neuenburg was educated in the public schools of this county and the high school at Redwood Falls, Minnesota, after which he took a business course, from which he graduated.

He stayed at home on the farm until 18 years of age, when he entered the hardware store of Heins & McClure, of Beaver Falls, in 1885, where he remained until the death of Mr. McClure, when the business was closed. In 1890 he entered the employ of P. W. Heins, of Olivia, as cashier of the People's Bank, which position he held until 1897; after this he devoted his time to the lumber business under the firm name of H. H. Neuenburg & Co., which had been established in 1892. He continued this work until 1906, when he was appointed postmaster of Olivia, which position he held until 1914. The lumber business of H. H. Neuenburg & Co. was sold in 1908, but he still owns stock in the lumber business under the same name and style at Danube, this county. He has been identified with the National Guard of Minnesota since 1898, when he enlisted in Co. H, 3rd regiment, M. N. G., and which was mustered into the 14th Minnesota Vol. Inf. for the Spanish-American war. He served with this organization until the end of the war. In 1889 he was elected second lieutenant of this company and, in 1900, was elected captain, which position he held until 1914, when he was elected as major in the 3rd regiment, M. N. G., which position he still holds. In politics, he is a Republican, and has always affiliated with that party. Has served for three years on the board of education of which he is still a member. H. H. Neuenburg was married Jan. 14, 1891, to Ida A. McClure, daughter of Gustavus McClure, who was a pioneer of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Neuenburg have

three sons, James Vern, born July 13, 1893; Donald, born Sept. 30, 1904, and Wilbur, born May 21, 1910.

William D. Griffith, for many years a prominent citizen of Renville county, now living at Hutchinson, was born in New York City, Sept. 9, 1848, son of Lemuel and Eleanor Griffith. In 1853 he was brought by his parents to Chanhassen, Carver county, this state, where they lived until 1859, when they returned to New York City. There, as a youth, William D. worked in the lumber business. In 1866 he returned to Minnesota and located at Hutchinson, in McLeod county, where he worked as a carpenter. It was in 1878 that he came to Hector, opened a general store and became postmaster. In 1880 he went out of the general mercantile business and engaged in the stationery line. In 1882 he again went in the general merchandise business in company with C. H. Nixon, forming the firm of Nixon & Griffith, continued as such firm until the fall of 1895. Then, on account of his wife's ill health, he sold his interest to C. H. Nixon, and took his wife to Florida and stayed until August, 1896, then returning to Hector. When the Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank was started he took a position as assistant cashier and resigned in the fall of 1890, having been elected again to the office of county treasurer. He served until 1913, winning the approbation of an entire county by his splendid work and efficient service. Upon his retirement he moved to Hutchinson, where he now lives. Mr. Griffith is a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted at New York City when but thirteen years of age in Co. F, 12th New York Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until honorably discharged in the same city, March 10, 1863. He is a member of the G. A. R. at Olivia, in which he has several times served as adjutant. Among his business holdings may be mentioned stock in the Citizens' State Bank at Hutchinson; the Renville County State Bank, of Bird Island; the Farmers' State Bank, of Hector; the Chamberlain Road Grader Co., of Hutchinson; and the Twin City Fire Insurance Co., of Minneapolis. In the Bird Island and Hector institutions mentioned he is a director. Mr. Griffith was married Oct. 8, 1873, to Ruth A. Ells, and they have seven children: Harold, Ada and Ida (twins), Charles A., Stella, Edna and Eva, the six oldest of whom graduated from the Hector high school. Harold served as deputy treasurer under his father from 1901 to 1913, and is now assistant cashier of the Olivia State Bank. Ada is Mrs. J. B. Phillips, of Hutchinson, and Ida is Mrs. William A. Phillips, of the same city. Charles A. is teaching in the College of Dentistry, University of Minnesota, of which he is a graduate. Stella is at home. Edna is now Mrs. Chester A. Grow, of Burns, Montana. Eva is Mrs. H. L. Torbenson, of Hector.

C. Edward Schumacher, one of the leading farmers of Flora township, was born in Henryville township, Renville county, Sept.

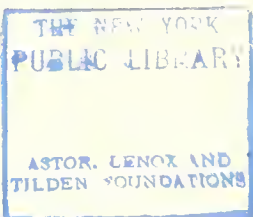
2, 1878, son of Peter and Mary (Antonsen) Schumacher. He attended the district school of Flora township, making his home with his uncle, Henry Timms. One winter he attended the Henryville district school. At the age of fourteen years, he went to Redwood Falls, where he completed his studies, living with his widowed mother. At the age of twenty-one years he began farming for himself, operating his mother's farm in Redwood county, in partnership with his brother Frank. Later he returned to Flora township and located on the tract his uncle, Henry Timms, had homesteaded in 1866, in sections 33 and 34. Here he has since resided. To the original tract, Mr. Schumacher has added forty acres. He has also developed the place in various other ways, including the erection of a fine basement barn, 40 by 64 feet. Here he successfully carries on general farming. He is a prominent man in the community, has increased his knowledge by wide reading, and his opinions on all subjects are highly valued. A thorough believer in co-operative effort, he is a shareholder in the Redwood Rural Telephone Co. and in the Delhi Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. His interest in the higher life of the community is shown by the fact that he was treasurer and a member of the building committee when the Evangelical church was erected. Mr. Schumacher was united in marriage Sept. 10, 1903, to Anna A. Deglow, born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, Sept. 23, 1883, a daughter of William and Ida (Leisman) Deglow, both natives of Germany, who were married in Wisconsin and located in Columbia county, where they made their home until 1900, when they moved to Redwood county and engaged in farming. In 1908 they located on a farm near Magrath, Alberta, Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Schumacher have three children: Dewayne, Rebecca, and Elmer. Dewayne was born May 2, 1906; Rebecca was born Feb. 26, 1909; and Elmer was born July 18, 1911.

Henry Timms was born in Germany, March 17, 1832, and now lives at North Redwood, Minnesota. He left Germany in 1858 and came to Le Sueur county, this state. There he enlisted in Co. J, Third Minn. Vol. Inf. and served four years. After the war he went to Le Sueur, where he remained for six months, and then to St. Peter, where he lived six months. At a land office there he took a homestead in Flora township, Renville county, onto which he moved in September, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. John Kochendorfer, with their infant daughter, had been killed there, and their cabin burned by the Indians. A son, John, and two sisters escaped and made their way to Fort Ridgely. Mr. Timms lived in a log house a few years and then built a frame house, one of the first in the community, and added forty acres more land to the farm. Mr. Timms was the township treasurer and also the school treasurer. He was also the treasurer of the Evan-



MR. AND MRS. HENRY TIMMS





gelical church. Gesche Schumacher, who later became Mrs. Henry Timms, came to this country June 4, 1866. She spent nearly two months in coming across the ocean and went to Le Sueur to her sister, Margaret Bornholt. She married Henry Timms Sept. 13, 1866, and then came to Renville county, where they lived for twenty-seven years. May 25, 1893, they retired from active work and moved to North Redwood, where they still reside.

Peter Schumacher, an early settler, was born in Holstein, Germany, June 19, 1846, son of Joehim and Abelona (Mohr) Schumacher, whose seven children were: Rebecca, John, Margareta, Abelona, Anna, Gesche and Peter, all except Anna and Rebecca coming to the United States. Peter and his sister, Gesche, came to the United States in 1866, being seven weeks and two days on the water. They came to Minnesota and joined other members of the family who had come to Le Sueur county. Peter worked at his trade of wagon maker, later entering into partnership with a Mr. Zimmer, at Waseca, Minnesota. In the spring of 1878 he came to Henryville township, Renville county, and located a tract of eighty acres of land to which he later added eighty acres more. Here he built a frame house, 10 by 16 feet, and improved the farm, later building good modern buildings and house. He spent a great part of his time doing carpenter work in the vicinity.

Peter Schumacher served as a member of the township and school boards. He was a trustee of the German Evangelical Association church, and was superintendent of its Sunday school. In 1888 he located at North Redwood, where he operated a furniture store and wagon shop. He was married in April, 1872, to Mary Antonsen, who was born in Missouri, Feb. 2, 1848, daughter of John and Louisa (Kahle) Antonsen. John Antonsen was a native of Denmark and brought the family to the United States. His children were: Mary, Minnie, John, Louisa, Rachel, Peter, Fred and Christine. He located in Le Sueur county, and was a mail carrier on the old Star route. Peter Schumacher died June 23, 1890.

Jerome P. Patten, Indian fighter, Civil war veteran, pioneer and early sheriff, now living in Morton, was born in the town of Richland, Oswego county, New York, Oct. 17, 1842. His parents were both natives of New York, the father, Silas W. Patten, having been born in 1808, and the mother, Elizabeth Vanschaiek, in 1812. At the age of twelve years, Jerome P. Patten was taken by his parents to Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood, working on the farm and assisting his father, who was a carpenter. In October, 1861, he was brought by his parents to Olmsted county, this state. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the Union army as a private in Co. H, Sixth Minn. Vol. Inf. He partici-

pated in the Indian campaign and went South with his regiment, being assigned with that regiment to the Sixteenth Army Corps. He participated in the battles of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely. After his discharge at Ft. Snelling, Aug. 19, 1865, he returned to his home in Olmsted county. In 1869 he located in Renville county, where he has since made his home. He has occupied many local positions of trust and honor and, in 1872, was sheriff of Renville county.

Mr. Patten was married Nov. 14, 1870, to Mary E. Griffin, a native of New York, and their union has been an ideal one of trust and happiness. They have two children, Florence A. and Floyd J., both engaged in newspaper and magazine work in New York City. Florence A. is the wife of W. P. McGuire and has two young daughters.

Henry W. Homeier was born Dec. 28, 1874, on section 24, Beaver Falls township, son of Henry and Augustina (Scheffler) Homeier. Henry Homeier was born in Germany and came to Renville county in 1863, securing a homestead in section 24, where he remained until his death, in 1885, aged sixty-six years. His wife, aged sixty-eight years, is still living in Morton. Henry W. Homeier remained on his father's farm, at first helping his father, in 1900 renting the farm and operating it for himself, and in 1913 becoming owner of it. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Grain Company at Morton and a member of the German Lutheran church at Morton. Mr. Homeier was united in marriage April 17, 1902, to Mathilda Thiem, born in Germany, March 20, 1877, daughter of Christ Thiem, born in 1834, and Rosa Brummond, born Feb. 16, 1842. They were married in Germany and came to Sibley county in 1878, where they settled on a farm. Mr. Thiem died in 1900 at the age of sixty-six years, and his wife is still living in Gibbon. Mr. and Mrs. Homeier have four children: Gertrude, born April 29, 1903; Harry, born Sept. 20, 1904; Mable, born Feb. 3, 1908; and Elvira, born July 15, 1910.

George M. Berry, a leading citizen of Hector, and a member of a family prominently identified with Minnesota milling, was born in Jordan, Scott county, Minnesota, Jan. 10, 1873, son of Gustav and March C. (Anderson) Berry. He spent his youth much as the other boys of his time and neighborhood, and graduated from the high school at Dundas, in Rice county, Minnesota, a point then widely known as a milling center. For some years he devoted his life to farming, as his father's manager. It was in 1899 that he came to Hector and engaged in the milling business. He and his brothers acquired a number of milling interests, and in 1909 the Berry Brothers' Milling Co. was incorporated, with Alfred Berry as president; Henry E. Berry as vice-president; and George M. Berry as secretary and treasurer. Oscar S. Berry is also a member of the firm. The company has

a plant at St. Paul, and its mills are located at Hector, Norwood and Buffalo Lake. George M. Berry has remained in direct charge of the Hector mill, and has identified himself closely with village life here. While in Rice county he was treasurer of Forest Lake township and of his school district, as well as of the Swedish Lutheran church there. In Hector he has been president of the village council and is now president of the school board. Busy though he is with his milling interests, he takes his greatest delight in church, Sunday school and uplift work. He is a thorough believer in temperance and helped to close the saloons, first in Hector and then throughout Renville county. He is superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school of Hector, as he has been for some thirteen years past, and he is also president of the Renville County Sunday School Association.

George M. Berry was married June 17, 1894, to Gertrude M. Larson, born June 22, 1872, in Goodhue county, this state, daughter of Simon and Christina Larson. Mr. and Mrs. Berry have six children: Myrtle V., a teacher, born May 29, 1895; Frances H., born April 14, 1898; Lester L., born Nov. 3, 1899; Norman H., born April 2, 1903; Eveline M., born July 10, 1905; Charles M., born Oct. 8, 1911.

Gustaf Berry, a pioneer, was born in Sweden, May 21, 1832, and came to America as a youth. In St. Paul he met and married Mary C. Anderson, who was born in Sweden, Aug. 15, 1833. From 1858 to 1867, Mr. Berry lived in Carver county, this state. Then moving to Scott county he purchased 120 acres. In 1884 he sold this and bought 211 acres in Forest township, Rice county, where he farmed for several years. In 1899 he and his good wife came to Hector, where he died Oct. 8, 1900, and where she is still living. In the family there were seven children: Charles J.; William, of St. Paul; Alfred, of Hector; Oscar S., of Norwood; George M., of Hector; Henry E., of St. Paul, and Amanda C., of Hector.

Thomas Sloan Hewerdine, A. B., S. B., C. E., now located in Olivia, has been actively identified with many important engineering projects in North and South America. He was born in Champaign county, Illinois, July 16, 1870, only son of Thomas and Catherine (Miller) Hewerdine. After studying at the high school at Fisher, Illinois, he attended the Northern Illinois Normal College at Dixon, Ill., for six months, going from there to the Western Normal College at Bushnell, Ill., where he remained two terms. Next he attended Austin College at Effingham, Illinois, where he received the degree of A. B. He then entered the University of Illinois, where he received the degrees of S. B. in C. E. In the meantime, he had paid his way through college by working and teaching. He was superintendent of the Toledo,

Illinois, public schools one year. He then went to Austin College as instructor in mathematics, remaining there a year, when he became professor of natural science at the Southern Indiana Normal School, of Mitchell, Indiana, remaining there one term. For a year and a half he taught chemistry and physics at the high school of Battle Creek, Michigan. Next he went to McKendree College at Lebanon, Illinois, as professor of mathematics and astronomy, remaining there a year. For two years he was professor at the Nova Scotia Technical College, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he organized and equipped the department of civil engineering. This new government institution is one of the highest classed schools of engineering in America. Next he was professor of civil engineering at the Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio, resigning in 1913 and coming to Minnesota. He was elected county surveyor of Renville county in 1914. While using his store of knowledge for practical purposes, Mr. Hewerdine has been chief engineer of the S. J. & S. C. Railway and Union Traction Company, of California, has worked on electric power development propositions in Canada, and Oregon; has worked on drainage and irrigation; has also been consulting engineer for numerous cities in the United States and Canada, and has visited Peru, Chili, U. S. of Columbia, Panama, Ecuador, and Mexico, as well as Canada, in connection with his work. During the Spanish-American war, Mr. Hewerdine served in the First Illinois Cavalry. His standing is shown by the fact that he is a member of the Western Society of Engineers, associate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, associate member of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, member of Society for Promotion of Engineering Education, member of American Association for the Advancement of Science, member American Chemical Society, member American Society for Psychical Research, and many other scientific and educational organizations. Mr. Hewerdine devotes much time to philosophical and scientific study and investigation, and has written and lectured upon these subjects.

Mr. Hewerdine is now a consulting Civil, Hydraulic, Municipal and Sanitary Engineer; and his office is in the Heins Block, in Olivia. At present he is engaged on extensive drainage propositions in this portion of the state.

Mr. Hewerdine was married Feb. 15, 1915, to Lillian Zumwinkle, the daughter of Henry and Martha Zumwinkle of Beaver Falls, Minnesota.

Mr. Hewerdine's father, Thomas Hewerdine, was born May 28, 1826, in Lincolnshire, England, came to America in 1851 and spent four years in Indiana, removing to Illinois in 1855. He was a farmer, stock raiser and stock buyer. He made a success of his business. He died Aug. 30, 1915, at Fisher, Illinois.





Mr. Hewerdine's ancestors on his mother's side were among the earliest settlers in America, having landed in Virginia nearly 300 years ago. Later they were in Kentucky with Daniel Boone, and still later generations were among the earliest settlers in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. Mr. Hewerdine's mother, Catherine Miller, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, Feb. 7, 1832, daughter of Sloan and Mary Miller. She died in 1873.

J. M. Bowler was born in Lee, Maine, July 10, 1838. Educated in common schools, Lee Academy and Westbrook Seminary. Worked on his father's farm, in his store and lumber camps. Taught country school in Lee in 1855 and Falmouth in 1856. Came west in March, 1857. Taught school in Hales Corners and Lynn, Wisconsin, and McGregor, Iowa. Came to St. Anthony Falls, Minnesota, in April, 1858. Worked in Croffut and Clark's printing office. Beginning in December, 1859, taught school several times in Nininger and Grey Cloud. Carried a Torch in the Wide Awakes, and voted for Abraham Lincoln for President in 1860. Enlisted in Company E, First Minn. Vol. Inf., in April, 1861, and was discharged upon the re-organization of the regiment for the three years service. Enlisted as private in Company F, Third Regiment Minnesota, Inf. Vols., Sept. 23, 1861; was promoted to corporal and sergeant, and in October, 1862, was commissioned Second Lieutenant and December 1, 1862, captain of the company and served as such until April 1, 1865; was commissioner Major of 113th U. S. C. T. and was mustered out with the regiment April 9, 1866. Was on detached service at different times as member of the General Court Martial, Military Commission and Post Adjutant on the staff of General C. C. Andrews at Little Rock, Ark. In the summer of 1865 was Post Commander at mouth of White River, Ark.; September, 1865, was assigned to command of a sub-district with headquarters at Jacksonport, Ark., and was also appointed assistant general superintendent of Freedman's Bureau for the same district. Major General Reynolds offered to recommend him for a second lieutenant's commission in the regular army. He declined the offer, preferring to return to his home in Minnesota. November 30, 1862, married Lizzie S. Caleff at Nininger, Minnesota. She and their daughter, Victoria, were with him during his stay at Jacksonport, Ark. After leaving the army, he taught school several terms at Nininger and Hampton and followed farming until he moved to Minneapolis, October, 1901. Besides he was in the farm machinery business at Bird Island for a short time and for a few years traveling collection agent for the Northwestern Manufacturing and Car Company of Stillwater and Minneapolis. Harvester Company, Minneapolis.

He worked two summers as right-of-way agent for Chicago, Great Western Railroad Company. At different times held vari-

ous town and school district offices; was representative in the legislature of 1878, speaker's clerk during the session of 1891, and State Dairy and Food commissioner two years under Governor Lind. Was nominee for Lieutenant-Governor on the ticket with Governor Lind in 1896 and 1898; also for Railroad Commissioner on Democratic State ticket in 1902. As an earnest friend of good government—government of, for and by the people—has always taken a lively interest in politics and never missed an opportunity to vote at elections. Since coming to Minneapolis in 1901 has done some business in real estate and insurance. In 1881 and 1882 was editor of newspaper, the Bird Island Blizzard.

Herman Zumwinkle, an estimable pioneer, was born in Germany, Jan. 16, 1835, and was there reared. He was a youth of but sixteen years when he came to America and located in Ohio. From there he went to Rock Island, Illinois. In that state, on Sept. 2, 1857, he married Elizabeth Nelson, who was born in Norway, June 6, 1832, and died Jan. 16, 1911. In 1862 he came to Minnesota, and located in Le Sueur county where he remained for two years. Subsequently he lived in Shakopee and St. Peter, working in these places as a harness maker. In 1870 he came to Renville county and purchased a farm in Flora township. In 1871 he bought 120 acres in section 22, Beaver Falls township, where he successfully carried on general farming until 1897 when he sold his farm to his son, Frank E., and moved to Beaver Falls village. He was a prominent man, served on the township board for many years and had his part in the upbuilding of the community.

Henry O. Zumwinkle was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, July 23, 1860, son of Herman and Elizabeth Zumwinkle. He was brought to Beaver Falls township by his parents, was here reared, and here attended the district schools. He also attended the Mankato Normal school for a year. In 1882 he purchased from his father the 80 acres in section 22, Beaver Falls, where he now successfully carries on general farming. Like the other members of his family, he has attained considerable prominence in the community.

He has held several township offices, having been assessor for two years, constable for twenty years, deputy sheriff for twelve years and a member of the school board for twelve years. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. of Morton and has held all the chairs. Mr. Zumwinkle was married Sept. 17, 1882, to Martha Ann Carruth, born June 1, 1864, daughter of James and Mary (Cosens) Carruth. James Carruth was born June 16, 1832, in Belfast, Ireland, and came to America in 1848 and lived in Canada until 1872, when he moved to Renville county and secured a homestead in section 2, Beaver Falls township. Here he remained until 1897 and then moved to Le Sueur county where he

lived eight years, next coming to Beaver Falls village where he still lives. His wife was born April 20, 1838, and they were married Jan. 5, 1859. There were fourteen children in the family, ten of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Zumwinkle have nine children: Mary E., born Aug. 5, 1883, married to B. G. Brown, a farmer of Beaver Falls township; Carrie B., born Dec. 22, 1884, now Mrs. H. M. Hale of Beaver Falls township; Evalena, born Jan. 29, 1887, married to William Schablin, a farmer of Beaver Falls township; Edward H., born March 24, 1889, assistant county surveyor of Renville county; William J., born June 16, 1891; Lillian, born July 3, 1893; Maude A., born Feb. 14, 1898; Theodore A., born Dec. 27, 1890; and Blanche L., born Nov. 18, 1903.

William C. Zumwinkle, a thrifty farmer and substantial citizen of Beaver Falls, was born in Le Sueur county, Minnesota, March 24, 1862, son of Herman and Elizabeth (Nelson) Zumwinkle. At the age of twenty-three William C. Zumwinkle started in the harness business at Beaver Falls, where he remained two years. Then he passed the next three years in farming in section 2, in Flora township. In 1888 he bought 80 acres in section 10, Beaver Falls township, where he still lives, and where he owns 240 acres of land. He has a well improved farm and has erected all the buildings since he came upon the place. Mr. Zumwinkle is a member of the I. O. O. F. of Morton and has filled all the chairs of that lodge. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Coöperative Grain Company of Morton, a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at North Redwood, and also a stockholder of the New State Bank at Morton. He has held several public positions at Beaver Falls, having been the assessor for ten years, clerk for ten years, justice of peace for ten years, and also treasurer of school district No. 4. He is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Beaver Falls. Nov. 20, 1882, Mr. Zumwinkle was married to Catherine Smith, born Nov. 29, 1861, of the parents John Smith, a farmer, who came to Flora township in 1866, and Julia A. (Falkal) Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Zumwinkle have three children, Harry J., born Aug. 21, 1883, who is a farmer in Beaver Falls township, Charles G., born Feb. 27, 1886, who is at home, and Vernon F., born Dec. 17, 1888, who is also at home.

John Smith, one of the earliest pioneers, came to Flora township in 1866, and located in section 2, Flora township. In 1868 he moved to section 12. In 1876 he went to Texas. But in 1880 he came back and settled on the old farm in section 12. He died Sept. 24, 1892, at the age of sixty-seven. His wife, Julia A. Falkal, died June 27, 1895, at the age of fifty. Mr. Smith was a hard-working, reliable man, and was well liked wherever he was known.

George E. Zumwinkle, a leading citizen of Beaver Falls township, was born in St. Peter, this state, Aug. 6, 1867, son of Herman and Elizabeth (Nelson) Zumwinkle. He was brought to Beaver Falls township as an infant and was here reared, securing his early education in the district schools. During the winters of 1887-88 he attended the Curtis Business College at Minneapolis. He was only seventeen years of age when he became a clerk in the dry goods store of King Brothers at Redwood Falls. Subsequently he clerked in a grocery store at Minneapolis for five years. Next he engaged in the grocery business for himself in Minneapolis for about two years. For four years he was yard clerk of the C. M. & St. P. R. R. at Minneapolis. Then he went to St. Paul where he held the same position for the Great Northern for two years. During the next two years he was the chief clerk of the same railroad at Como Station, then becoming cashier, which office he held four years. For two years he was the correspondence clerk of the G. N. R. R. & G. W. R. R. at the Minnesota Transfer. During the next two years he rented his father's farm at Beaver Falls township, but at the end of that time went back to clerking, remaining for two and a half years with R. B. Henton of Morton. Then he bought 80 acres of the home farm in section 22, receiving the western half of the northeastern quarter, where he still is. Mr. Zumwinkle is a member of the M. W. A. of St. Paul and is Vice Grand of the I. O. O. F. at Morton. While living at Merriam Park the family were members of the Presbyterian church and attend the Methodist Episcopal church at Morton. He was united in marriage May 6, 1891, to Edith Elliott, born Oct. 12, 1867, daughter of Alonzo Elliott, born April 22, 1833, and died Sept. 12, 1901, a farmer and pioneer of Dodge county, and Lucy (Leach), born March 14, 1839, who now lives with her daughter, Mrs. George Post, in Santa Ana, California. Before her marriage Mrs. Zumwinkle attended the Wesleyan Methodist Seminary at Wasioja, Minnesota, and also the Northwestern Conservatory of Music at Minneapolis in 1888-89. Mr. and Mrs. Zumwinkle have two children, Lyle Edwin, born Oct. 6, 1893, now a law student at the University of Minnesota, and Gladys Elizabeth, born May 21, 1895, who is at home.

Frank E. Zumwinkle was born in St. Peter, Minnesota, March 4, 1870, son of Herman and Elizabeth (Nelson) Zumwinkle. He was reared on his father's farm and at the age of twenty-two decided to have a farm of his own, buying 80 acres in section 10, Beaver Falls township, where he farmed for four years. Then he sold this land and bought the home farm from his father in section 22, which he has increased to 200 acres and where he farmed until Oct. 1, 1915, when he retired to Morton village. He has held several township offices. He has been the clerk of the school





MR. AND MRS. M. R. FOSTER

district No. 5 for one year and a member of the school board for four years, township assessor for two years, and is now secretary of the Farmers' Coöperative Grain Company of Morton. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Zumwinkle was married April 24, 1891, to Margaret Carruth, born Oct. 25, 1871, daughter of James and Mary (Cosens) Carruth. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zumwinkle have three children: Bert, born Nov. 20, 1892; Bessie, born Nov. 14, 1895; and Helen, born July 24, 1901.

James Carruth was born in Belfast, Ireland, June 16, 1832, and came to America in 1848. He lived in Canada until 1872, and then came to Renville county and secured a homestead in section 2, Beaver Falls township. Here he remained until 1897, when he removed to Le Sueur county. Eight years later, however, he took up his home in Beaver Falls village. He was married Jan. 5, 1859, to Mary Cosens, who was born April 20, 1838. Of the fourteen children in their family, ten are still living.

Morris Bishop Foster, a very successful farmer of Hector township, was born in Van Buren county, Michigan, Jan. 15, 1843, son of Ira and Catherine (Bishop) Foster. Ira Foster was born in Madison county, New York state, of English parents. Catherine Bishop was born in Oneida county, New York. They were married in New York and Ira Foster engaged in farming in Madison county, New York. He left for Michigan about 1840 and engaged in farming in Van Buren county and cleared up a farm in Keelerville township. He held various offices of the township and was also a school officer and a member of the Methodist church, which he helped organize. There were nine children in the family: Newton, Riley, Dwight, Dean, Morris, Irene, Josephine, Olive and Ida.

Morris B. Foster received his education in the early district school of his section and enlisted, in 1861, with Company D, Sixty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Keelerville, Michigan. He took part in the following battles: Ft. Donaldson, Shiloh, Siege of Corinth, battle of Iuka, and was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. He was mustered out September, 1864, at Jonesboro, Georgia. He then began preparing himself for college at Decatur, Michigan, and graduated June 3, 1867. Then he entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and graduated in 1870. He was a member of the Adelphi and Philomathean societies. After graduation he was superintendent of schools at Benton Harbor and Saginaw, spending one year at each place. From there he went to Minnesota in 1872 and became superintendent at Wabasha for four years. While there he homesteaded 160 acres in section 26, Hector township, in 1874. It was all wild land, and he erected the first shanty in Hector township. It was 10 by 12 feet. He next became superintendent of schools at Glencoe, and then located permanently on his homestead with

his family. Here he built a good house and began farming with a team of horses. His first crop of wheat brought \$1.00 per bushel, being hauled to Glencoe. He now owns 380 acres, has erected good buildings, and raises Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He is connected with the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator at Buffalo Lake, and was one of the directors of the original Farmers' Elevator as long as it was operated. Mr. Foster has held several township positions, having been supervisor, assessor and clerk. He also served as member of the school board, and helped organize District No. 102. Mr. Foster was married at Saginaw to Katherine Louise Folwell, of Kendaia, Seneca county, New York, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, born May 2, 1841, daughter of Thomas and Johanna (Bainbridge) Folwell, of English parentage. Mr. Folwell was a farmer of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Foster have the following children: William B., Adela J., Thomas and Robert. William B. is a practicing physician in Texas. He married Grace La Selle and they have two children, Morris and Jean. Adela J. is the wife of Dr. E. C. Gaines, of Buffalo Lake, this county, and they have two children, William Folwell and Catherine. Thomas I. and Robert M. are editors of the Buffalo Lake News, Robert M. being the managing editor, while Thomas I. devotes his time largely to looking after the home farm. The mother, Mrs. Katherine (Folwell) Foster, died Dec. 19, 1915.

Ristvedt Brothers, general merchants, Sacred Heart. Thore H. and Hans H. Ristvedt were born in Norway, July 17, 1859, and Nov. 2, 1866, respectively, sons of Halvor T. and Marte T. (Vettestad) Ristvedt. Thore H. came to America in 1880 and located in Waseca county, Minnesota, working on a farm the first summer. Hans H. came to America in 1886. The two brothers opened a drug and stationery store at Milan, Chippewa county, this state, which they operated for four years. In 1889 they came to Sacred Heart and engaged in the restaurant business for two years. They then sold out their business at Milan and Thore went to St. Paul, where he bought a grocery store on Arlington Hill in company with Christ Skaar, while Hans engaged as typesetter in Minneapolis. Later Thore sold out his business in St. Paul and went to Minneapolis. Together the brothers bought a stock of groceries, and for two years operated a store at Twentieth avenue and Third street, south. After several other ventures in various places, including a newspaper in Sacred Heart, they opened their present establishment in 1900. They have been successful and enjoy a well-deserved patronage. Both are Republicans and both attend the Hauge Lutheran church. Hans H. Ristvedt was married Oct. 2, 1899, to Rachel Johnson, born in Dane county, Wisconsin, Sept. 5, 1863, daughter of Even and Johanna Johnson, natives of Norway, who came to America

at an early age, were married in Dane county, and are now both dead, the father having died in 1881 and the mother in 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Hans H. Ristvedt have one daughter, Myrtle, born Aug. 6, 1903. Halvor T. Ristvedt was a farmer and spent the span of his years in Norway. He was born Sept. 16, 1815, and died in 1888. His good wife was born Dec. 29, 1829, and died in 1887. The children in the family were: Anton, Thore H., Kristine, Marie H. and Hans H. Anton H. is a blacksmith and farmer at Hanley Falls, Minn. He married Laura T. Mork and they have three sons and one daughter: Carl, Trygve, Alf and Agnes.

Frank R. Olson, an energetic young business man of Sacred Heart, is one of the newcomers in the county, but has already built up one of the largest land businesses in this part of the state. He has taken his part in the affairs of the village and is a sincere friend of the cause of agricultural development. His methods have already won for him a wide circle of friends, and he has a long list of satisfied clients. The subject of this mention was born in Sioux Rapids, Iowa, Nov. 18, 1886, son of Rasmus and Antonette (Christopherson) Olson. Like the other boys of his time and neighborhood, he attended the district and graded schools of his native state, and later supplemented this with a full commercial course in the Estherville Business College, of Estherville, Iowa. A few years later he graduated from the Missouri School of Auctioneering at Kansas City, Missouri. After completing his course in the business college, Mr. Olson continued to farm with his father at Sioux Rapids, Iowa, until 1912. Then he opened a garage at Spencer, Iowa, which he conducted for some four months. Then he entered the real estate business at Spencer. It was on March 17, 1914, that he reached Sacred Heart, where he has since been engaged in the sale of farms and farm land. During that year he sold more farms in Renville county than any other man or firm in the county. He does not, however, confine his attentions to Renville county, but also handles land in other counties in this state and in other states as well. At various times he holds real estate sometimes alone and sometimes in partnership. Mr. Olson has made his success in life entirely by his own efforts, his shrewd judgment, his strict uprightness and his genial temperament being his strong assets. In addition to selling land, he does considerable auctioneering and his services in this capacity are constantly in demand. Being still a young man, his friends predict for him a brilliant future.

In the fall of 1914, Mr. Olson conducted a corn show, in which was exhibited some of the best corn ever shown in this part of the state. There were exhibits from about 100 farms in Renville county. Prizes were awarded and all the expenses of the exhibition borne by Mr. Olson himself. Frank E. Balmer, from the University of Minnesota, Judge A. T. Daly, of the District court,

and Dr. G. S. Weaver, of the United States Department of Agriculture delivered addresses. The corn show gave corn-growing in this region a new impetus.

Mr. Olson also took an active part in the West-Central Minnesota Corn and Alfalfa Exposition, held at Benson, Minnesota, November 25, 26 and 27. He was prominent in the balloting for queen of the exposition, and was himself elected king. At this exposition he did considerable "boosting" for Renville county with excellent results.

A. D. Corey was born in New York state in 1845, moved to Wisconsin with his parents in 1847. On Sept. 12, 1864, when nineteen years of age, he enlisted in Company F, Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served one year. He was in a number of important battles in the vicinity of Richmond, and also assisted in the capture of Petersburg. He was badly wounded in a battle on April 7, 1865, after fighting almost continually from four o'clock in the morning until two o'clock in the afternoon, having been struck by a piece of shell in the shoulder. He was sent from the field to the hospital, where he was honorably discharged July 1, 1865. Returning to his home he immigrated with his parents to Minnesota. In August, 1865, he located upon a homestead that his father had filed on for him while he was in service. Mr. Corey was married to Martha A. Barkey, December 19, 1867, and passed through all the hardships of pioneer settlers. This union resulted in four girls and two boys, of whom five are living. Mr. and Mrs. Corey attained the honor of being the oldest couple married in Renville county and still residing there. Mr. Corey held the offices of town supervisor, county commissioner, boiler inspector under Governor S. R. Van Sant and served as postmaster at Beaver Falls under President William McKinley.

B. C. McEwen was born in St. Lawrence, Rock county, New York, in 1848, and came West in 1855, locating in Rock county, Wisconsin. He came to Minnesota in 1857 with his father (familiarily known as "Uncle Charlie McEwen) and family, and arrived at Hutchinson September 14. The trip was made with an ox team and nine weeks were spent on the road. There were five children in the senior McEwen family, four sons and one daughter.

B. C. McEwen was married in 1877 to Josie Myhoffer, at Glencoe, Minnesota. They have two children, Dwight M. and Sarah K., the latter being married to M. Ramsland, formerly of Sacred Heart. Mr. McEwen saw Minnesota before it was admitted as a state or had one mile of railroad or a mile of telegraph within its borders. When he first came to the state, every acre of grain raised in McLeod county was sowed by hand, harvested with a cradle and threshed with a flail, cleaned by throw-

ing in the wind and then hauled fifty miles to be ground into flour.

With the exception of the time spent in the south during the Civil war, he has lived in McLeod and Renville counties since 1857. He has served in township and county offices.

Michael Dworshak, a successful farmer of Beaver Falls township, was born in Scott county, Minnesota, Feb. 24, 1865, son of Wencel and Rose (Victor) Dworshak. The father was born in Austria and came to America in 1862, locating on a homestead in Scott county, where he remained for fourteen years. In 1876 he came to Renville county and purchased 80 acres in section 5, in Beaver Falls township, where he lived until his death, in 1885, being sixty years of age. The mother, aged eighty-six years, died March 18, 1815. Michael Dworshak bought the home farm in 1889 and still lives there. He now owns 360 acres and has improved the farm, building an eight-room house in 1898, and in 1905 a modern barn, 34 by 60 feet, with a hip roof. Mr. Dworshak is a stockholder and director in the Farmers' Elevator Company at North Redwood, and is a member of the Catholic Workmen and also of the Catholic church in Henryville township. April 30, 1889, Mr. Dworshak was united in marriage to Anna Skoblik, born Feb. 3, 1868, in Scott county. Her father, Martin Skoblik, was a farmer of Henryville township, who came to America from Austria in 1860, living for eighteen years in Scott county, coming to Renville county in 1878. He died July 9, 1900, at the age of seventy years. Her mother, Eva (Manaza) died Sept. 13, 1912, at the age of seventy-three years. Mr. and Mrs. Dworshak are the parents of six children: Jennie, born May 11, 1890, and married Sept. 30, 1913, to Tony Wertisch, a farmer of Troy township; Mary, born Jan. 20, 1892, and married John W. Swoboda, a farmer of Kingman township; Mathew W., born Jan. 9, 1894; Matilda, born March 30, 1896; Joseph, born July 3, 1899; and Miloyd, born June 6, 1907. The four youngest children are at home with their parents.

John Kuester, an early settler, was born in Germany, and in 1869 married Frederika Zammsoy. In 1877 he came to America and located in Olmsted county, this state, where he farmed four years. Then he moved to the vicinity of Ft. Ridgely, where he managed a farm for four years. Subsequently he bought a farm of 80 acres in section 4, Beaver Falls township, where he lived until his death, May 3, 1902. His wife is still living at Redwood Falls at the age of seventy-eight years. Of their seven children, three died in infancy. Gustave died in 1906, at the age of thirty-three; Albert is village marshal at Wabasso, this state; John W. and Richard H. are farmers in Beaver Falls township.

Richard H. Kuester, a thrifty farmer of Beaver Falls township, was born in Germany, May 16, 1875, son of John and Fred-

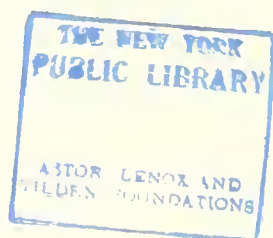
erika (Zammsow) Kuester. He began farming for himself at the age of twenty-seven years and bought 160 acres in Redwood county, where he remained for six years. Then he rented the home farm and is still there. He raises Poland-China and Yorkshire hogs and Durham and Holstein cattle, and carries on general farming. Mr. Kuester is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at North Redwood and also at Wabasso. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. Sept. 15, 1901, he was united in marriage to Matilda Boltz, daughter of Benjamin and Caroline (Rose) Boltz. She was born March 11, 1884. Her father was a merchant at South Bend, Indiana, and died Jan. 1, 1897, at the age of fifty-six years, and her mother is now living at Minneapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Kuester have two children: Leroy Richard, born May 19, 1905, and Muriel Matilda, born Aug. 10, 1908.

John W. Kuester, a well-known farmer of Beaver Falls township, was born in Eyota, Minnesota, July 4, 1877, son of John and Frederika (Zammsow) Kuester. In 1904 he bought 160 acres in section 4, Beaver Falls township, and carries on general farming, dairying and stock-raising, raising Chester White hogs and Belgian horses, and specializing in Velvet Chaff wheat. He is a stockholder of the Farmers' Elevator Company, at North Redwood, and also of the Redwood Falls Telephone Company. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Kuester was married June 15, 1904, to Hattie Breitzkreutz, born Dec. 22, 1882, daughter of Emil Breitzkreutz, a farmer of Flora township, who came to Renville county in 1875, and Minnie (Sommerfield) Breitzkreutz, who were married Jan. 17, 1881, and had eight children, four boys and four girls. Mr. and Mrs. Kuester have three children, Lulu, born April 17, 1905; Erwin, born June 16, 1906, and died Jan. 12, 1907; and Leo, born Dec. 14, 1908.

John Cheney, a popular and successful farmer of Beaver Falls township, was born in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, May 1, 1869. His father, William H. Cheney, was born Dec. 28, 1834, and came to Renville county in 1885 from Rice county, Minnesota, to engage in farming. He is at present living at Boise, Idaho. His first wife, Isabel (Wood) Cheney, died June, 1914, at the age of seventy-six. John Cheney remained at home on his father's farm on section 15, Beaver Falls township, until his marriage. At present he owns 320 acres of land in sections 14 and 15, Beaver Falls township. This was his father's old home, which he bought in 1900. It has good buildings, which stand near the road on the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 15. He is a progressive farmer, doing diversified farming and making a specialty of feeding and getting live stock ready for market, usually shipping two cars of cattle and one carload of hogs each year. He was clerk of the School District No. 5 a number



JOHN CHENEY



of years. Mr. Cheney was united in marriage to Mrs. Catherine Leach, Dec. 6, 1893. Mrs. Leach was born Aug. 29, 1864, and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman. Mrs. Hoffman afterward married Jerry Toomey and operated the hotel in Beaver Falls for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Cheney have one child, Gertrude, born Sept. 1, 1895. She is a graduate of the Olivia high school, having completed her course in 1914, and is now a student at the state university. Mrs. Cheney and her daughter are members of the Catholic church in Morton.

Franz W. Schmidt, who lived in Renville county before the Indian massacre, was born in Germany, July 4, 1833, and died March 17, 1914. He came from Germany to America in 1850, remaining one year in Illinois and then coming up the Mississippi river in the steamboat to the mouth of the Minnesota river; went up the Minnesota river to North Redwood, where he worked for the government, putting up buildings and breaking land for the Indians on the south side of Big Stone Lake. After two years of this kind of work he worked in New Ulm for two years and married in 1859 at West Newton, Minnesota, Mrs. Mary Rissor. Her maiden name was Mary Euchegel and she was born Aug. 24, 1827, and died April 14, 1907. Her first husband was killed by a falling tree. She had one son, Henry, by the first marriage, who is now a farmer of Beaver Falls township. Franz W. Schmidt homesteaded 160 acres in sections 14 and 15 in Beaver Falls township, about Jan. 1, 1860. He left this place at the time of the Sioux uprising and brought his family to Ft. Ridgely and then to Hastings, Minnesota, where he left them for a year. He came back after a two hours' stop in Hastings and enlisted in Company L, First Minnesota Cavalry, and served one year, fighting the Indians. Then he moved his family to New Ulm, where he lived three years, then coming back to the homestead in Beaver Falls township in 1867, where he lived until his death.

Frederick Wilhelm Schmidt was born Sept. 11, 1864, son of Franz W. and Mary (Rissor) Schmidt. He worked on the home farm until he was eighteen years of age and then worked out on the neighborhood farms for four years. Next he rented 80 acres from William Carr in Birch Cooley township, where he stayed for three years. The next two and a half years were spent on a farm in Henryville township. In 1891 he bought the home farm from his father. Mr. Schmidt was married Feb. 6, 1894, to Mary Ahrendt, born June 1, 1875, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Lange) Ahrendt. Her father was a farmer of Flora township, coming from Rice county in 1887, and is now living at Brownson. His wife was reared by William Reike of Fairfax. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have six children: Lena, born Dec. 16, 1894, wife of William Ahrens, a farmer of Beaver Falls township; Laura, born Oct. 24, 1896, wife of Max Hueth, a farmer

of Montana; Lila, born July 3, 1898; Mamie, born July 1, 1900; Esther, born June 17, 1911; and George William, born Jan. 25, 1915.

Charles Reineke, deceased, a well-known farmer of Beaver Falls township, was born in Germany, Sept. 22, 1832. He came to Renville county about 1882 and bought 160 acres of land in section 26, Beaver Falls township, where he remained until his death on Jan. 15, 1904. He was a member of the I. O. O. F. at Morton. After his death Mrs. Reineke conducted the farm, doing diversified farming, and with the help of her children has been very successful. Mr. Reineke was married Nov. 25, 1882, to Lizzie Bratsch, who was born July 29, 1864. Ten children were born to this couple: Otto, born Oct. 11, 1883, who is now a farmer near Franklin, Minnesota; Frank, born Jan. 21, 1885, a farmer in Redwood county; Amanda, wife of Walter Deitzman, a farmer in North Dakota; Lillian, born July 18, 1890, and Antonia, born Sept. 17, 1891, who are at home; Julia, born June 19, 1895, who is attending the Mankato Commercial College; and Fred, born Oct. 25, 1897; Bessie, born March 21, 1899; George, born Oct. 5, 1900; and Theresa, born Sept. 23, 1902, who are all at home, assisting their mother on the farm.

George J. Pregler, one of the prosperous young farmers of this county, was born on his father's farm in section 24, in Beaver Falls township, Oct. 14, 1893. His father, John Pregler, came to America from Germany with his father, Andrew Pregler, in 1865, and a homestead of 120 acres was secured in section 24, Beaver Falls township. In 1891 Andrew Pregler left the farm and moved to Morton, where he lived until his death. John Pregler then took charge of the farm and still works upon it. May 10, 1892, John Pregler married Katherine Goblirsch, who was born Dec. 25, 1874. Mr. and Mrs. John Pregler have six children: George J.; Annie, now Mrs. Kiern Tracy, of Acequia, Idaho; Bertha, Rosa and Frank. The family are all members of the Catholic church at Morton. The father and George J. operate the farm together and raise O. I. C. hogs and cattle and horses.

Harry M. Hoffman, a very successful farmer of Beaver Falls township, was born Feb. 5, 1870, in Pennsylvania. He came to Renville county in 1880. At the age of twenty years he rented 120 acres in section 15, Beaver Falls township, where he remained five years. During the same time he also worked upon 120 acres in section 11, which he bought in 1891. In 1904 he sold this land and bought 200 acres in section 15 and 120 acres more in 1908. Now he owns the western half of section 15 in Beaver Falls township, and has a very nice, well improved farm. Mr. Hoffman has served as treasurer of School District No. 5. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, of North Redwood,

and is a member of the Catholic church of Morton. Mr. Hoffman was married June 23, 1909, to Lydia M. Roper, born May 10, 1888, daughter of Henry and Anna (Barnholdt) Roper. Mr. Roper was born Jan. 15, 1852, in Cook county, Illinois and came to Minnesota in 1868, locating in Waseca county. He came to Renville county in 1886, and bought 160 acres in section 16, north-east quarter, Beaver Falls township. In 1910 he moved to the eastern half of the southwest quarter of section 16, where he remained until 1913, when he moved to Redwood Falls, where he died April 29, 1913. His wife was born Nov. 17, 1862, and still lives in Redwood Falls. They were married in Le Sueur county, Jan. 15, 1880, and had six children. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman have two children, Helen Catherine, born April 3, 1910; and Margaret Anna, born Nov. 10, 1912.

Julius Scheffler, a well-known farmer in Beaver Falls township, was born in Germany, Jan. 17, 1857, and came to America with his parents, Michael and Annie (Stensel) Sheffler. The father first located in Illinois, near Chicago, and came to New Uhn, Minnesota, in 1867, and to Renville county in the spring of 1868. Here he secured a homestead of 80 acres, in section 12, Beaver Falls township, and lived there until his death in July, 1898, at the age of eighty-seven. The mother died Sept. 4, 1886, at the age of seventy-five years. Julius Scheffler remained on the home farm until his marriage, in 1879, when he bought 80 acres in section 12, Beaver Falls township, where he is still living. He now owns 440 acres in Renville county. In 1901 he rebuilt the house, a nice two-story building, and also built a large barn and other outbuildings. He does diversified farming. Mr. Sheffler is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Morton and also in the New State Bank at Morton. He has been a member of the township board for seven years and of the school board for twenty years. He is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Beaver Falls. Mr. Scheffler was united in marriage to Dortha Wichmann, June 19, 1879. She was born Dec. 2, 1855, daughter of Deitrich Wichmann. Mr. and Mrs. Scheffler have eight children: Molly, born March 4, 1881; now married to Harry Zumwinkle, a farmer of Beaver Falls township; Frederick and Emma, twins, born Sept. 20, 1882, who are at home; Julius, born Aug. 13, 1884, married Millie Lusenhop, and farming in Birch Cooley township; Lydia, born July 5, 1887, married to William Blume, a farmer of Beaver Falls township; William, born Nov. 5, 1890; Louise, born Feb. 25, 1893, and Henry, born Feb. 28, 1895, the three youngest being at home.

Sibon Peterson Dustrud, a pioneer, was born in Norway. He started for the United States when a young man, coming by sailing vessel, and had a long voyage. He first came to Chicago, then a place of only one building, and helped build pontoon

bridges across the Chicago river. He next went to Wisconsin and settled in Cane county, near Mt. Horeb, and was instrumental in founding a Norwegian colony at that place. His first money there was ten cents per day for splitting rails and after a time he had earned enough to send for his parents. His mother died on the way over and was buried at sea, his father continuing the journey to Mt. Horeb, where he lived the rest of his life. Sibon Dustrud engaged in farming, living a few miles southwest from Mt. Horeb, and built a log cabin and farmed with an ox team. His wagon box was made of rails and the wheels were made from logs. He built another house, which burned, so the family were obliged to move back to the old hut. After a time this farm was sold and he went to Houston county, near Spring Grove, securing a piece of land there and lived there two years. Then, in company with his brother, Herman, and John Johnson, he made a trip to what is now St. Paul and Minneapolis, thence down the Mississippi river to Red Wing, where he purchased 160 acres of government land. He intended to bring his family there but, while on their way to this place, were induced to settle near Preston, Fillmore county, and he sold his land in Red Wing. He lived in Fillmore county twenty years and then moved to St. Paul, where he purchased a house on the corner of Earl and Maryland streets, and also bought a place in Wisconsin, near Hudson. He spent two years in St. Paul and then came to Renville county, where he died at the age of eighty-three years. His wife, Helena Johnson, died in 1912 in Webster, South Dakota, at the age of ninety-three years. They had four children: Peter, Ellitia, John and Sibb.

Peter P. Dustrud, retired farmer, former county commissioner and prominent citizen, was born in Illinois, April 4, 1843, son of Sibon Peterson Dustrud and Helena Johnson, both of Norway. He grew to manhood in Fillmore county, and took part in the Indian campaign, being one of the Fillmore county men who went to New Uhm and, with 800 horses, went to the relief of Ft. Ridgely. In 1871 he came to Renville county and settled in section 28, Ericson township. The story of his early experiences and his history of the early days of the township are found elsewhere in this work. He drove into Renville county by horse and ox team. There were no buildings on the claim and he made a dug-out with three tiers of logs on top. Basswood bark was used for the roof and the floor was of earth. The nearest market was at St. Peter. Often wheat was ground in the coffee mill for home use. When Mr. Dustrud started farming he had three cows and 160 acres of land, and now has increased the farm to 280 acres, and has built a modern house.

Mr. Dustrud has been a prominent man in public affairs and has held the office of township supervisor for many years. He



P. P. DUSTRUD AND FAMILY



was also school clerk for several years and treasurer of the school board. While county commissioner, he was instrumental in having the school districts cut down to normal size and secured a bridge across Hawk Creek. He helped organize the township of Ericsen and established School District No. 43. Mr. Dustrud is a member of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran church, many of the early services being held at his cabin. He was treasurer for several years and helped organize the church of Sacred Heart village.

In the spring of 1914 Mr. Dustrud retired from active work and moved to Sacred Heart.

Mr. Dustrud was united in marriage to Martha Jacobson, a native of Norway, born Feb. 11, 1859, who came to America at the age of 18 years with her mother, her father, a miller, having died in Norway. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dustrud: Julius, John, Helena, Clara and Mina.

Christ Kurtz was born in Germany, Dec. 19, 1841, son of Christ and Annie (Boetke) Kurtz. The father was born in Germany, Dec. 21, 1812, and came to America in 1869, spending one year in Indiana. Then he moved to Wabasha county, Minnesota, where he lived for seven years, going next to Renville county and making his home with his son, Christ, at Beaver Falls township. He died April 6, 1895. The mother was born Sept. 8, 1814; and died Nov. 11, 1912. Christ Kurtz, the son, came to America in 1868 and lived in Indiana for one year. Then he spent six years in Wabasha county, Minnesota, farming. Sept. 16, 1879, he purchased 80 acres in section 6, Beaver Falls township, where he still lives. He now owns 360 acres of land and has improved the farm in various ways. He has erected good farm buildings and a modern seven-room house. He raises a good grade of stock, making a specialty of Durham cattle, Poland-China hogs, Belgian horses and Shropshire sheep. Mr. Kurtz is a member of the German Lutheran church and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company of North Redwood. He was married July 4, 1875, to Amelia Dusterhofdt. Her father, Martin Dusterhofdt, came to America from Germany in 1864 and farmed in Marquette county, Wisconsin, where he died. Mr. and Mrs. Kurtz have had eight children: Louis, born April 26, 1876, now a farmer in Crooks township and married to Annie Weigel. They have two children. Wilhelmina, wife of William Wilschnack, a farmer of Alberta, Canada. They have one child. Fred is a farmer in Colorado. Amelia is the wife of Ferdinand Seibert, a farmer of Redwood county, and they have three children. Augusta is the wife of Frank Prodhel, a farmer, and has two children. Christ, August and Annie are at home. Mrs. Kurtz died June 16, 1892.

August Lindeman was born Feb. 6, 1822, in Germany and came to Rochester, Minnesota, in 1854, where he remained for

three years. Then he moved to Le Sueur county and remained there for eleven years. In 1868 he bought 160 acres of land in section 7, in the northwest quarter of Beaver Falls township, where he remained until the spring of 1894, when he retired from farming and moved to North Redwood. On this farm he built a one and a half story log house, 18 by 18 feet, with a shingled roof and board floor, hauling the material from Mankato. Beginning farming with a plow, harrow and a wagon as his only tools, he gradually improved his land until, in 1894, he had increased his farm to 560 acres. He died in 1896. His good wife, whose maiden name was Mary Granke, was born in Germany, Jan. 6, 1834, and is now living at North Redwood at the age of eighty-four.

Ernest F. Lindeman, one of the modern and progressive farmers of Beaver Falls township, was born in the township where he now resides, Jan. 31, 1873, son of August and Mary (Granke) Lindeman. He was reared on the home farm and attended the district schools of the neighborhood. In 1894 he rented a farm in Redwood county, where he remained for four years. Then he became manager for the Great Western Elevator Co. at Delhi, this state. After two years and a half in this capacity, he purchased a half interest in the firm of Hoskins & Honor, owners of a granite-working plant at North Redwood, and changed the name to Hoskins & Lindeman. In 1902 he moved onto his present farm of 240 acres in section 4, Beaver Falls township, which he purchased in 1896. He has accomplished some splendid developments, carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of raising and feeding cattle for the market. One of the notable features of the farm is a fruit orchard of one and a half acres. The home which Mr. Lindeman erected in 1912 is one of the best rural residences in the county. It is modern in every way, 33 by 44 feet, two stories, with twelve rooms and a full basement. The lower story is finished in oak, attractive features being the open stairway and built-in buffet and book cases. The upper story is finished in pine. The home is equipped with hot water heat and acetylene lights throughout. A porch runs across the front and around on the east side. The house cost some \$8,000 and is distinctly a model of its kind. Mr. Lindeman has served as the township assessor and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company and the Farmers' Telephone Company at Redwood Falls. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and attends the Presbyterian church. April 2, 1901, Mr. Lindeman was united in marriage to Amanda L. Schafer, born August 26, 1880, daughter of John and Caroline (Krupp) Schafer. They were married in Faribault, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Lindeman have three children, Pearl M. and Percy M., twins, born May 9, 1902, and Bonnie L., born June 24, 1903. John Schafer was born in

Wasmar, Mecklenberg, Germany, March 17, 1829, and died March 4, 1885. He was married at Faribault, this state, Aug. 30, 1870, to Caroline Krupp, who was born at Georgendorf, Germany, Dec. 5, 1837, and now lives in North Redwood, this state. John Schafer had a notable war record. On Sept. 27, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company G, Second Missouri Artillery, and was promoted for bravery, first to corporal and then to sergeant, serving as such under Captain John Emil. He was discharged by special orders Aug. 24, 1863. In 1867 he came to Renville county and engaged in farming for the remainder of his life.

Lewis J. Lindeman, an eminently successful farmer of Beaver Falls township, was born in that township, Aug. 22, 1870, son of August and Mary (Grauke) Lindeman. In 1894 he rented 320 acres of the home farm in sections 6 and 7, which he operated until 1897 when he bought it. He carries on general farming and raises grain and a good grade of stock, having Belgian horses and Shropshire sheep. In 1905 he built a very fine home, 40 by 50 feet, two story, with twelve rooms and a full basement. It is equipped with furnace heat, and acetylene lights are used, both in the house and in the other buildings. A thousand-gallon pressure tank in the basement furnishes water throughout the house and to all the barns and buildings. The house is finished in oak, with oak floors downstairs and with white pine on the second floor, and has all modern conveniences. It was erected at a cost of some \$9,000. For six years Mr. Lindeman operated a complete portable gasoline threshing outfit. For the past three years he has operated a gas tractor outfit for the same purpose, and with this tractor he operates an eight-bottom plow on his farm.

Mr. Lindeman and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Redwood Falls. He is a stockholder and director of the Redwood County Rural Telephone Company and a director of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Redwood Falls, and has been a director of the Flora Mutual Fire Insurance Company for eight years. He has been chairman of the township board for eleven years and treasurer for School District No. 7 for four years.

Feb. 21, 1894, Mr. Lindeman was united in marriage to Rosa Wilschnack, born Jan. 14, 1876, daughter of August and Augusta (Miller) Wilschnack. Her father came to Renville county in 1876. Before coming to Minnesota he had lived in Wisconsin and was one of the soldiers of the Civil war, having served nine months in Company E, First Wisconsin Cavalry, in 1864 and 1865, and was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. He died in Markasan, Wisconsin, Aug. 14, 1912, aged sixty-eight years, to which place he moved in 1900. His wife died in 1878, at the age of twenty-nine years. Mr. and Mrs. Lindeman have

one child, Lillian Vivian, whom they have adopted. She was born Dec. 30, 1910.

Edward H. Davis was born Aug. 8, 1872, in Beaver Falls township, son of William Davis, who died in 1904, at the age of fifty-six years, and Hally (Johnson) Davis, who died in 1910, at the age of sixty years. William Davis was born in Illinois and came to Renville county in 1863, where he secured a homestead of 80 acres in section 18, Beaver Falls township, where he remained until his death. He served on the school board for two years. There were six children in the family, five boys and one girl. Edward H. Davis farmed in Redwood county for about one and a half years, then he moved to section 18, in Beaver Falls township, where he remained for one year. Then he engaged in the blacksmith trade in North Redwood for nine years. Returning to Beaver Falls township he bought 160 acres of land in section 20, and has lived there ever since. He has improved the farm, increased it to 240 acres and raises stock for the market. He breeds Durham cattle and feeds and prepares for the market about one carload of cattle and one of hogs every year. One of the features of his farm is a silo, 16 by 30 feet, with a nine-foot pit. It has a triple wall with a capacity of 165 tons. Mr. Davis has served on the village council of North Redwood for three years. He is a stockholder and director of the North Redwood creamery and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of North Redwood. Mr. Davis was married March 6, 1898, to Freda Graffenberger, born April 18, 1879, in Germany. She was adopted by her grand parents at the age of two and a half years and reared by them. Her grandfather, Albert Graffenberger, died in November, 1914, at the age of eighty-six years. He came to America in 1881 and lived in Redwood county until 1901, when he moved to Toledo, Washington, where he died. The grandmother, Wilhelmina Biedemann, died Feb. 6, 1900, at the age of sixty-nine years. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have six children: Edith, born Nov. 5, 1899; William, born March 11, 1902; Howard, born June 7, 1905; Mildred, born Nov. 25, 1908; Alice, born July 7, 1913, and Gordon Edward, born July 4, 1915.

Charles C. Buscho, cattle dealer, was born July 26, 1890, in Beaver Falls township, Renville county, Minnesota, son of William and Minnie Buscho, who came to Renville county in 1869, and now live in Morton. In 1910 Charles bought the home farm of 549 acres in sections 25, 26, 35 and 36 in Beaver Falls township. In 1911 he built a new barn, 36 by 40 feet. He raises Short-horn, Hereford and Galloway cattle, good swine and Percheron horses, making a specialty of feeding cattle and shipping about three carloads of cattle and eighty hogs each year. He also sells about seventy cords of wood in Redwood Falls and Morton each year, having 200 acres of standing timber. Mr. Buscho is the

treasurer of the Farmers' Co-operative Grain Company, at Morton, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Morton. He was married June 19, 1912, to Ida Tretbar, born Nov. 13, 1891, daughter of Clemens Tretbar, aged seventy-nine years, a farmer and pioneer of Brown county and a veteran soldier, having served four years in the army, and Pauline (Flamme) Tretbar.

Mr. Tretbar had a notable Civil war record. He enlisted May 20, 1861, in Company K, Second New York Volunteer Infantry, and was discharged at New York City, June 20, 1863, by reason of the expiration of his service. Jan. 2, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, New Jersey Volunteer Cavalry, and served until Aug. 1, 1865. He served under Generals George B. McClellan, Ambrose E. Burnside, Joseph Hooker, U. S. Grant and Philip Henry Sheridan, and was in the battle of Bull Run, Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, Cross Keyes, Cedar Mountain, Manassas, Rappahannock, Chancellorsville, battle of the Wilderness, Gello Tavern, two miles from Richmond, and Petersburg. He was wounded at Winchester while on the skirmish line. The history of the charges of his heroic companies is a part of the history of the nation.

Frank M. Serbus, an enterprising farmer of this county, was born Aug. 7, 1864, on boat in quarantine, while his parents were coming to America. The father, John Serbus, was born in Bohemia and settled at Belle Plaine, Minnesota, where he lived until the spring of 1865, when he homesteaded 140 acres in Home township, Brown county, Minnesota. In 1884 he came to Henryville township, this county, and bought 480 acres in section 26, where he remained until the time of his death, in 1897, at the age of sixty-three. The mother, Rosa Bertek, died Aug. 26, 1912, at the age of seventy-three. Frank M. Serbus remained at home until 1888, when he bought 160 acres in section 26, Henryville township, being part of his father's farm. He still lives there and now owns 400 acres, two acres of which are set out in fruit and fifty acres in timothy and clover. He raises Red Poll cattle and O. I. C. hogs, feeding one car of stock per year for the market. He has served as clerk of School District No. 12 for twenty-seven years and for seven or more years has been a member of the township board and for three years chairman of same. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Morton and North Redwood, and also in the New State Bank at Morton. The family are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Serbus was married July 10, 1888, to Mary Zeta, born June 1866, daughter of Frank and Annie Zeta. Her father was born in Bohemia and came to America in 1865, first living at La Crosse, Wisconsin, then in Scott county, Minnesota, later in Henryville, this county, some six years, and finally again in Scott county, where he died Sept. 15, 1907, at the age of eighty-two. His wife died March 11, 1913.

at the age of eighty-four. Mr. and Mrs. Serbus have had eight children: Adolph, born July 22, 1899, a farmer in Henryville township; Kate, born Dec. 31, 1891, married to Martin Tersteeg, a farmer of Bird Island township; Joseph, born Sept. 25, 1892; Lucy, born March 20, 1897; Mary, born March 11, 1898; Frank, born Aug. 20, 1902; Theodore, born Aug. 19, 1904; Edward, born Feb. 3, 1906, and three others, who died in infancy.

Bernard A. Tersteeg, a well-known farmer of Henryville township, was born in the Netherlands, Nov. 15, 1872, son of Edward and Katherine Tersteeg, who brought him in the early seventies in Muscatine, Iowa, where the father worked at his trade as a blacksmith, later coming to Renville county and engaging in farming. Bernard A. Tersteeg attended school in Holland and in Iowa, coming to Renville county when he was fifteen years of age. When he was twenty years old he left the parental roof and started out for himself. In 1900 he secured a tract of 160 acres in Henryville township. This land was absolutely wild, not even a well having been dug. He erected a small frame house and a shed, began breaking the land, and engaged in cattle-raising. The changes that have since taken place are remarkable. Seventy-two acres have been added to the original tract. In the spring of 1915 the house was remodelled into a modern dwelling, with such conveniences as a hot air furnace, a bath, running water, and the like. The barn is also modern, and the farm machinery, tools and equipment are modern in every respect. Aside from carrying on general farming, Mr. Tersteeg specializes in stock-breeding, aiming to keep the year around some nine head of horses, some fifty head of cattle, and from 50 to 100 swine. The cattle are of good breed and the swine are of the Duroc-Jersey variety. In everything that tends to increase the prosperity of the agricultural regions of Renville county, Mr. Tersteeg has taken a prominent part. He is president of the Farmers' Elevator at Olivia, a position he has occupied for some seven years past. He is stockholder in the People's Creamery at Olivia, manager of the Farmers' Stock Shipping Association of that place, and a member of the Farmers' and Breeders' Association of Renville county. He has served on the township board and did efficient service. Fraternally, he belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters at Olivia. Mr. Tersteeg was married in Davenport, Iowa, Aug. 4, 1896, to Mary Gold, daughter of John and Henrietta Gold, and a native of Buffalo, Scott county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Tersteeg have had six children: John Edward, Bernard Michael, Mary Catherine, Edward George, Louis John and Paul David.

Michael Heaney, a pioneer, was born in Ireland, and came to Canada at the age of seven years. He was there married to Catherine Percy, a native of that Dominion, and they remained there





MR. AND MRS. HENRY HEANEY

until 1869, when they came to the United States and settled in section 14, Henryville township, this county, taking a homestead of eighty acres and a tree claim of eighty acres. They erected a sod house, started to break the land with the assistance of an ox team, underwent all the privations of pioneer life, and became successful and honored members of the community. Their experiences in the early days were numerous. They suffered from the cold, the mosquitoes and the grasshoppers. Sometimes they scarcely had enough food to eat. The nearest markets were Willmar and New Ulm. But as their prosperity increased, conditions changed. They added to their holdings, until they owned 480 acres, and successfully carried on general farming, making a specialty of stock-breeding. He died June 22, 1902, and she, May 14, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Heaney were the parents of ten children: Thomas, a retired miner of Spokane, Wash.; John, of Los Angeles, California; Sarah, of Henryville township, where she keeps house for her brother, Charles; Edward, a farmer of Velva, North Dakota; Agnes, deceased; Charles, a farmer of Henryville township; Helen, deceased; Henry, now living on the old homestead; and Mary and Michael, who died in infancy. The family faith is that of the Catholic church.

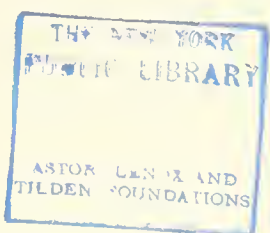
Henry Heaney, a representative farmer of Henryville township, was born on the farm where he now lives, April 2, 1877, son of Michael and Catherine (Percy) Heaney, the pioneers. He attended the schools of his neighborhood, and there grew to manhood. In 1901 he started farming for himself on the home farm. He now owns 480 acres, located in sections 14 and 23. He made many improvements, including a sightly and commodious barn, but the structure was hit by lightning on the night of Sept. 2, 1914, killing eight horses, destroying all the harnesses and equipment, and burning some eighty tons of hay, entailing in all a loss of some \$2,000. Since then he has erected two splendid barns and is now preparing to construct a new house, modern in every particular. About half the farm is under the plow, the remainder is in pasture and meadow. Mr. Heaney carries on general farming and makes a specialty of stock-raising, shipping two carloads of cattle and one carload of swine each year. Mr. Heaney is well known and popular, and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Heaney was married Nov. 26, 1912, to Ethel Van Ornum, a native of Norfolk township, daughter of Elbert and Laura Calhoun Van Ornum. They have two children: Harry, born Nov. 24, 1913; and Zelia, born Feb. 23, 1915.

Fred W. Kuglin, successful farmer and stock-raiser, was born in Germany, April 19, 1872, son of Wilhelm and Augusta (Manthei) Kuglin. Wilhelm Kuglin came to America in 1874, living in Nicollet county for three years and then purchasing 80 acres

in section 20, Henryville township, this county, where he remained until his death, Oct. 4, 1905, being fifty-seven years of age. At that time he owned 400 acres of land. Fred Kuglin remained at home until he was twenty-four years of age, then he bought 120 acres in section 24, Flora township. After seven years he sold this and bought 240 acres in section 20, Henryville township, which was the old home farm. He raises Durham cattle and makes a specialty of feeding cattle for the market, sending about one car of cattle and one-half car of hogs per year. Mr. Kuglin has been a member of the township board for six years and chairman for two years. He is a member of the German Evangelical church. Mr. Kuglin was married Dec. 9, 1897, to Annie Ahrendt, born July 9, 1875, daughter of John and Emma (Beurry) Ahrendt. Her father was a native of Germany and came to Flora township, where he was a farmer for thirty years. Then he moved to Todd county, where he lived for twelve years until his death, Nov. 1, 1908, being sixty-two years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Kuglin have seven children: Walter, born Nov. 17, 1898; Lawrence, born June 29, 1901; Silvia, born Dec. 11, 1903; Mabel, born June 6, 1906; Orville, born Oct. 9, 1908; and Pearl, born Aug. 22, 1910; Vivian, born Sept. 30, 1915.

Wencel Swoboda, a well-known farmer of Henryville township, was born in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, May 15, 1860, son of Wencel and Annie (Bobaukowa) Swoboda. His father came to America in 1854, settling in Manitowoc county and moving to Henryville township, Renville county, this state, in 1869, where he homesteaded on section 32. Here he lived until his death, in 1890, at the age of eighty years. The mother died in 1901 at the age of eighty years. Wencel Swoboda remained at home, taking charge of the farm after his father's death. He is still living there and now owns 640 acres of well-improved land, three acres of which are set out in fruit. He raises Durham cattle and Poland-China hogs. Mr. Swoboda was married Oct. 26, 1889, to Emma Kodet, born Jan. 24, 1872, daughter of Joseph and Theresa Kodet. Her father came to America in 1869, going to Wisconsin, where he remained until 1874, when he moved to Henryville township. Mr. and Mrs. Swoboda have eight children: Katie, born Jan. 30, 1893, married to Thomas Dunsmore, a farmer of Flora township; Emma, born Feb. 28, 1896; Anna, born March 28, 1898; Ella, born April 4, 1900; Mary, born Oct. 7, 1906; Jennie, born May 17, 1908; Wencel, Jr., born Dec. 11, 1912, and Joseph, born Sept. 20, 1915.

Lloyd C. Trochil was born on section 2, Henryville township, Jan. 21, 1890, son of Frank and Mary (Kueera) Troehhlil. The father, a native of Bohemia, has made his home in Henryville township for twenty-five years and has served on the township board for twelve years. Lloyd C. Troehhlil remained at home un-





WENCEL KODET, FAMILY AND GRANDCHILDREN

til 1912, when he rented a farm of 160 acres in section 21, known as the old Malecek Farm, where he still lives. He has served as township clerk for three years and is of the Catholic faith. Mr. Trochlil was married March 31, 1913, to Mary Swoboda, born March 9, 1893, daughter of John G., a farmer in Henryville township, for twenty-seven years, and Rose (Malecek) Swoboda. Mr. and Mrs. Trochlil have two children, Cecelia, born May 23, 1914, and Emil, born June 13, 1915.

Wencel Kodet was born in Bohemia, Nov. 1, 1850, son of Wencel and Veronica (Koza) Kodet. His father came to America in 1854 and worked in the plow shops at Racine, Wisconsin, for three years, afterwards purchasing 60 acres of land in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, where he lived until his death, in 1889, at the age of eighty-six. The mother died in 1900, at the age of eighty-six. Wencel Kodet attended the district schools of Racine county, Wisconsin, and Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and the public schools at Chicago and, in March, 1883, bought 200 acres in section 25, Henryville township, where he still lives. He now owns 845 acres of well-tilled land in Renville county, and 120 acres in Todd county, Minnesota, a total of 965 acres.

Since making his home in Henryville township, Mr. Kodet has held many important positions. He has been chairman of the township board for one year and treasurer of School District No. 12 for eight years. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at North Redwood and also at Morton, and a stockholder in the New State Bank at Morton. He is a member of the Bachyn Catholic church in Henryville township. Mr. Kodet was married June 25, 1883, to Mary Swoboda, born April 1, 1861, daughter of Wencel and Annie (Bohaukowa) Swoboda. Her father came to America in 1854 and located at Racine, Wisconsin, where he remained three years, next moving to Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1867, when he settled in Henryville township. He died in 1890, at the age of eighty years. His wife died in 1901, at the age of eighty. Mr. and Mrs. Kodet have ten children: John A., born May 16, 1884, a farmer in Henryville township; Annie J., born March 17, 1886, married to John J. Zitah, a farmer in Henryville township; Mary G., born May 5, 1888, married Frank H. Zitah, a farmer in Henryville township; Emma C., born March 19, 1890, married to Wencel H. Dolezal, a farmer in Henryville township; Alois E., born Feb. 12, 1892; Joseph C., born June 28, 1895; Adolph A., born Nov. 8, 1897; Charles H., born Nov. 30, 1899; Katie L., born Sept. 25, 1902; and Ella J., born Nov. 30, 1905. The six youngest children are at home with their parents.

Wencel C. Kodet, a well-known farmer of this county, was born on section 28, Henryville township, Sept. 9, 1883, son of Joseph, a farmer in Henryville township, and Theresa (Swoboda)

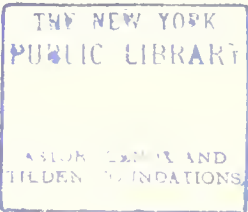
Kodet. He remained at home until he was twenty-four years of age and then bought 160 acres of land in the southeast quarter of section 28, Henryville township, where he still lives. He has been successful and has taken active part in the work of the township. He was treasurer of School District No. 27 for six years and assessor for one year. He is of the Catholic faith. Mr. Kodet was married May 15, 1908, to Josephine Sokolik, widow of Frank Sokolik, a farmer in Henryville township. She was born March 10, 1890, and is the daughter of John Zetah, a retired farmer at Olivia, and Mary, (Budik), who died Dec. 27, 1914, at the age of sixty years. By Mrs. Kodet's first marriage there were two children, Lillian and Della Sokolik. Mr. and Mrs. Kodet have one child, Mildred, born Aug. 13, 1909.

Charles W. Chroup, a prosperous farmer of this county, was born in Germany, Oct. 24, 1862, and came to America with his mother, in April, 1867, coming to Le Sueur county, Minnesota. In 1873 his mother and stepfather, John Schaffer, moved to Flora township, Renville county, and he accompanied them. While in Le Sueur county he worked out five years and bought 80 acres in Lexington township, in 1883, which he sold in 1885, and, in 1887, bought 160 acres in the southeast quarter of section 36, Henryville township. He has improved this farm in every way and built a modern eight-room brick house. He has also built a large barn with concrete foundation and has established a good dairy business. He has served as chairman of the township board for three years and has been school treasurer of District No. 101 for two years, having been director of same for fifteen years. Feb. 26, 1889, Mr. Chroup was married to Minnie Geffers, born Feb. 16, 1861, in Germany, daughter of Henry Jeffers, who died in 1865, at the age of forty-six, and Mary Geffers, who died at the age of forty-four in 1867. Besides a step son, George, born June 6, 1887, Mr. and Mrs. Chroup have five children: William, born March 23, 1890; Henry, born Nov. 23, 1893; Laura, born June 8, 1896; Angela, born Aug. 25, 1900; and Raymond, born April 19, 1904.

Frank Goelz, a substantial farmer of Birch Cooley township, was born in Germany, April 7, 1865, son of Leonard Goelz, a farmer of Germany, who died in 1903, at the age of eighty years, and Barbara (Sauer) Goelz, who died in 1879, at the age of fifty years. Frank Goelz came to America in 1883 and located at Chicago, where he engaged as a baker, remaining nine years. Then he rented 80 acres of land in section 10, in Birch Cooley township, Renville county, Minnesota, and, in 1895, he bought this land. He is still there and now owns 680 acres. In 1905 he rebuilt the house and in 1912 he built a barn, 30 by 54 by 16. He has two acres of fruit land and a fine grove. He owns about fifty head of cattle, having fifteen milch cows. Mr. Goelz is a



CHARLES CHIROUP AND FAMILY



member of the Catholic church at Morton and is a member and trustee of the C. O. F. He was married June 12, 1888, to Anna Gloden, born Dec. 4, 1865, daughter of Michael and Katrina (Siegfried) Gloden. The father was a farmer in Illinois who died in 1908, at the age of seventy-seven years, and the mother died in 1892, at the age of forty-eight years. Mr. and Mrs. Goelz have the following children: Katrina, born April 7, 1889, and died in July, 1889; Michael, born May 14, 1890; John, born Jan. 21, 1893; August, born April 18, 1895; Josephine, born Nov. 8, 1898; and Barbara, born July 30, 1902.

Charles H. Orth, one of the well-known cattle men of this county, was born in Brown county, Minnesota, March 10, 1879, son of Frederick and Anna (Scharf) Orth. His father is still living at New Ulm at the age of seventy-four years. He came to Brown county in 1864. His mother died in 1914, at the age of sixty-three. For four years Charles H. Orth worked in a drug store in Brown county. Then he attended the Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., graduating from the pharmacy department in 1898. For two years he worked in a drug store in Sleepy Eye, and one year was spent in Minneapolis. In 1901 he bought the drug store in Morton from his brother, Fred W. Orth, which he operated for six years. Then he sold it to Grover C. Jaehmings & Co. Next he became manager of the telephone company and also manager of the farm of Orth Brothers. With his brother, Fred W., he owns 800 acres of land in Norfolk township, in sections 4 and 5. This was purchased in 1911, and they make a specialty of feeding hogs and cattle for the market. They also raise considerable grain. They hire three men, who, with their families, live on the farm. There are two large barns for the cattle and a large hog house. July 12, 1905, Mr. Orth was married to Eva Mae Foster, who was born May 6, 1882, daughter of Willard S. and Ella (Wood) Foster. She was a teacher in the public schools at Clarkfield and Morton, and was a graduate of the Litchfield high school in 1901 and of the Winona State Normal school in 1903. Her father is a railroad contractor at Spokane, Washington. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Orth, Eva Bernice, born April 12, 1906, and Donald Foster, born Sept. 21, 1912. The family are members of the Episcopal church.

Edson Comstock, for several years a successful farmer of Birch Cooley township, was born in Birch Cooley township on section 19, Nov. 14, 1879, son of Samuel Jerome and Diana (Harrington) Comstock. Samuel Jerome was born in Wayne county, New York, Dec. 22, 1838, and lived in Michigan from 1844 to 1866, when he came to Birch Cooley township in 1867 and homesteaded 80 acres in section 30, northeast quarter. He held the positions of township treasurer and clerk. March 12, 1907, he

retired from farming and moved to Silverton, Oregon, where he still lives. Feb. 26, 1871, he married Diana Harrington, born in New York, July 20, 1842. She was a teacher in Michigan. They had two children, Edson and a daughter, Mrs. Laura Haevernick, who lives near Silverton, Oregon.

Edson Comstock rented the farm of his parents in 1900. There are fine buildings on the place, standing near the old Birch Cooley battle ground, one and a half miles northeast of Morton. On the place are raised Holstein cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. Seven acres are planted to alfalfa and five acres to potatoes.

Mr. Comstock is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Morton. He has served as school clerk for ten years. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was married Dec. 6, 1906, to Mary Alberta Vederstrom, born Dec. 3, 1891, daughter of Albert and Mary A. (Stout) Vederstrom. Mr. Vederstrom died in St. Paul, Sept. 1895, at the age of thirty years. His wife, born Nov. 9, 1857, is living in Morton. Mr. and Mrs. Comstock have three children: Ruth, born Sept. 11, 1907; Ethel, born April 24, 1909; and Roger, born Feb. 20, 1913. Mr. Comstock removed to Silverton, Oregon, in October, 1915.

Thomas P. Hogan, a farmer of Birch Cooley township, was born in Norfolk township, Dec. 5, 1884, son of Joseph and Sarah (Jones) Hogan. His father died in 1886, at the age of thirty-five years, being a farmer and homesteader of Norfolk township. His mother is still living with her brother, John Jones, at Birch Cooley. At the age of fifteen Thomas P. started working out on farms and continued for two years. Then he rented the Jones Farm in Birch Cooley for ten years. Next he rented Dan Middleton's farm in section 9, Birch Cooley township, where he still is living. He is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America at Morton. Mr. Hogan was married June 19, 1912, to Bessie Lorden, born Feb. 12, 1886, daughter of Dennis H. and Hannah (McCarthy) Lorden. Dennis Lorden is a retired farmer, living at Elkton, South Dakota, being a pioneer there. Mrs. Hogan is a graduate of the Mankato State Normal school and has taught seven years. She is also a member of the A. O. H. at Elkton, South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Hogan have two children, Francis Gerald, born March 21, 1913, and Leo Thomas, born August 18, 1914. The family are members of the Catholic church of Birch Cooley township.

Charles H. Gilbert, son of Le Roy A. and Susan (Muhm) Gilbert, was born in Fayette county, Iowa, Nov. 27, 1879. His father is a farmer of Norfolk, Nebraska, still living at the age of sixty-seven years. His mother died in 1908, at the age of forty-nine years. Charles Gilbert farmed in Marshall county for one year and then became city engineer at Minot, North Dakota, for three years. Next he homesteaded in Ward county, North Dakota;

where he remained for seven years. In 1912 he turned to another line of work and gave up farming, opening a restaurant at Franklin, Minnesota, where he handles candies, tobacco, cigars, and has a news-stand and soda fountain in addition to the serving of meals and lunches. He is also an agent for the Holland pianos. Mr. Gilbert is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and member and overseer of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is also a member and usher of the Degree of Honor, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a stockholder in the Citizens' Milling Company. Mr. Gilbert was united in marriage Nov. 27, 1902, to Annie E. Erickson, born May 6, 1881, daughter of Peter Erickson, janitor of the public school at Franklin, and Elizabeth (Woodbery) Erickson. To this union were born three children: Neil Robert, born March 13, 1904, and died Feb. 17, 1906; Max V., born May 14, 1907; and Keith V., born Dec. 12, 1910.

Peter L. Gardner, a respected citizen of Morton, was born in Olmsted county, Minnesota, June 8, 1876. His parents were natives of Denmark, his father, Jorgen Gardner, being born there in 1841, coming to this country with his wife. He located in Redwood county, where he lived for thirty-two years, engaged in farming. He has now retired from this work and is at present living at Hutchinson, Minnesota, with his wife, Christina (Lauritzen) Gardner. Mr. Gardner attended school in Redwood Falls, spending three years at the high school. At the age of twenty-three he began teaching winters and farming during the summer. After two years of teaching he rented a farm in Redwood county and for the next two years spent his time in farming. Then he bought 145 acres in section 33, Morgan township, Redwood county, and worked upon his farm during the next two years. The next four years were spent in Minneapolis with the T. C. R. T. Company and N. W. Consolidated Milling Company. Mr. Gardner now moved to Morton and worked in the creamery for two years, finally buying a half interest in the same. After two years he bought full ownership on March 1, 1913. Mr. Gardner is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America and is president of the Morton lodge. Sept. 1, 1902, Mr. Gardner was married to Bessie Byington, born June 25, 1882, daughter of Cornelius H. and Amanda (Abbott) Byington. Mr. Byington is a retired farmer living at Redwood Falls, and was one of the early pioneers of Redwood county. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gardner, Cornelius J., born July 25, 1904; George, who died at the age of one year; and Nannie, born Oct. 25, 1910.

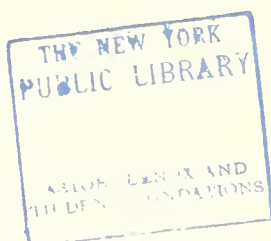
Edward Tisdell, a well known farmer of Birch Cooley, was born on section 16, Birch Cooley township, June 7, 1880, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Connelly) Tisdell. Henry Tisdell was born

in Ireland and came to America in 1858, coming to Renville county in 1870 where he homesteaded in section 16, securing 160 acres. Here he remained until 1910 and is now living with his son Edward at the age of seventy-eight years. His wife, Elizabeth (Connelly) died July, 1913. They were married at St. Louis in 1860. Edward Tisdell remained home until 1910 when he rented the home farm. He is still there and has specialized in Percheron horses and raises many hogs. He is a member of the Catholic church at Morton. He is also a member of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Morton and of the Loose Line Electric Railroad Company. Mr. Tisdell was married Jan. 10, 1910, to Charlotte Nuens, born May 29, 1892, daughter of Peter and Octavia (Quinette) Nuens. Her father was a farmer and pioneer in Minnesota and lives at New York Mills at the age of seventy-eight years. Her mother is still living at the age of sixty-seven years. They have five boys and three girls, Mrs. Tisdell being next to the youngest child. Mr. Tisdell's parents had six boys and five girls, Mr. Tisdell being also next to the youngest child. Mr. and Mrs. Tisdell have a daughter, Charlotte Mary, born May 29, 1915.

Henry Dreyer, a well-known pioneer, was born in Pomerania, Prussia, Germany, March 11, 1828, son of Jacob and Regina (Fanslow) Dreyer, the other children in the family being Caroline, Louise, Wilhelmina and Ferdinand. Henry Dreyer was reared in his native village served three years as a dragoon in the German cavalry, and learned the trade of wagonmaker and wheelwright. In 1852 he started for America and after a long voyage of forty-six days landed and found his way to Wisconsin where he worked at his trade. In 1856 he came to Minnesota and located in Le Sueur county. During the Indian Massacre, he teamed for the government. In 1866 he drove with his family to this county and located in section 35, Flora township, which he secured by buying a soldier's land warrant. The vicinity where he located had been the scene of one of the most terrible parts of the Indian Massacre and the Buce family had been killed on that very farm. A daughter, Minnie Buce Carrigan, wife of Owen Carrigan, a well-known early settler, wrote a book about her experiences during those trying days. When he reached the place, Henry Dreyer built a log house 14 by 16 feet with a shake roof. He underwent with his family many of the privations of pioneer life. For five years his crops were devastated by the grasshoppers. But as the years passed prosperity came, the farm was increased to 240 acres, and some good buildings erected. Mr. Dreyer was a public spirited man and took a deep interest in school and church. He donated the land for the schoolhouse of district 8, and also for the Evangelical Association church, of which he was one of the founders and trustees. For about sixteen years the services had



MR. AND MRS. HENRY DREYER
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM L. DREYER AND CHILDREN



been held in his log house. One Sunday of the winter of 1870 there were thirty-five people attending the Sunday services held in their cabin. A bad snow storm came up and the thirty-five people were snow bound for three days and had to stay in the little cabin. School was also held for three months in the cabin. After the school district was organized Mrs. Dreyer boarded thirty-three different teachers. Mr. Dreyer was well known for his hospitality and during the first years of his stay in this county his house was an open home to all strangers who came to that section. During the summer of 1871 two families lived with them all summer till they could build a house, twenty-two in all in that small shanty, and two boarders besides. One winter in the early days Henry Schafer and family lived with them and used the loft. This was used before that for Mr. Dreyer's granary and was partitioned off into bins for the wheat. The Schafer family beds were on top of the wheat in the bins.

For twenty-one years Mr. Dreyer served on the Flora township board, being chairman of the board of supervisors for sixteen years of this time. He was also trustee and treasurer for school district No. 8.

Mr. Dreyer was married in Le Sueur county to Regina (Korth), a widow of Frederick Ross, daughter of John and Louise Mary (Brown) Korth. She was born June 24, 1833, in Pomerania province of Prussia, Germany, coming to this county at the age of nine years, being forty-three days on the water, and then coming to Wisconsin. By her first marriage there were two children: George and Bertha. By her second marriage there were the following children: Rufus, born Nov. 11, 1857; Matilda, born Jan. 20, 1860; Louisa, born Dec. 28, 1862; Ida, born Feb. 26, 1865; Regina, born April 30, 1867; Henry, born March 17, 1871, and William, born July 1, 1873.

Mr. Dreyer died at North Redwood Dec. 23, 1906, and his wife is still living at North Redwood.

William Louis Dreyer, a well-known farmer of Flora township, was born in the township where he now resides, July 1, 1873, son of Henry and Regina (Korth) Dreyer, the pioneers. He grew to manhood on his father's farm, attended the district schools, and has become a prosperous and successful man. He owns 240 acres, carries on general farming and makes a specialty of good stock. He is interested in public affairs, has served on the school board and holds stock in the Delhi Coöperative Farmers' Elevator Co., the North Redwood Elevator Co. and the Redwood Falls Elevator Co. Mr. Dreyer was married in 1901, to Margaret Shippman, born in Lexington, Le Sueur county, this state, daughter of Peter Shippman and Anna (Barnholt) Shippman. Mr. and Mrs. Dreyer have two children, Melvin R., born May 10, 1903, and Anna C. born July 30, 1908.

Peter Shippman, a well-known man of Le Sueur county, this state, was born in Germany, August 16, 1841, and as a young man came to this country. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in Co. I, Third Minn. Vol. Inf., and was mustered in at Ft. Snelling Oct. 9, 1861. From Sept. 1, to Dec. 1, 1862, he was on special duty as a scout against the Sioux Indians. Enlisting in Co. I as a private, he was promoted gradually until he attained the rank of captain. At the close of the war he was married in Le Sueur county this state and settled on a farm. In a log house and with but few possessions he and his bride started their married life. The years have brought prosperity and they are now among the leading citizens of their community.

Robert B. Henton, Jr., a prominent man of Morton, was born in Home township, in Brown county, Minnesota, August 10, 1869. His father, Robert B. Henton, Sr., came to Brown county in 1856, and finally located at Morton in 1882, where he died at the age of sixty-four years. His mother, Margaret (Thomas) Henton, is living with her daughter in Minneapolis, at the age of seventy-two. At the age of fourteen Robert B. Henton, Jr., worked on the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway. After a year of this kind of work he began work in his father's store at Morton. In 1890 he took over his father's interest. After fourteen years he sold his interest in this store and on Sept. 10, 1904, again embarked in the general mercantile business. Recently he has sold out and devotes his time to looking after his various holdings.

Mr. Henton has been the village recorder for five years and has served on the village council, being president of the council for three years. He has also been a member of the village school board for five years. He was postmaster from Aug. 20, 1912, to June 1, 1914. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. Mr. Henton is vice president of the State Bank of Morton, a director of the Citizens' State Bank of Franklin, and for five years was owner with N. W. Orth of the Farmers' Elevator Company, but sold his interest. He owns 600 acres of farming land in Beaver and Birch Cooley townships.

Mr. Henton was married April 26, 1898, to Maude Beach, of Minneapolis, born May 20, 1871, daughter of A. H. and Mary (Little) Beach, of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Henton have one child, Robert Beach, born August 14, 1900. The family faith is that of the Episcopal church.

Daniel Middleton, a successful farmer of Birch Cooley township, was born in section 16, Birch Cooley township, Oct. 10, 1869. His father, James Middleton, was born in Ireland and came to America in 1858, coming to Renville county in 1868, where he bought 160 acres in section 16, Birch Cooley township. He remained there till 1901 when he retired from farming and moved to Morton where he is still living at the age of seventy-

six years. He has served as school treasurer for twelve years. When he moved to Renville county he came from Columbus, Wisconsin, walking the whole way and driving his stock. He built a sod house and purchased a team of oxen. He had no farming tools at first and cradled his grain. His wife, Margaret Dunigan, died March 1, 1900, at the age of sixty-five years. Daniel Middleton remained at home until 1900, when he rented the home farm. He purchased 80 acres in section 5, Birch Cooley township in 1905 and bought the home farm in 1914, all of the northern half in section 16, where he is now. He raises Durham cattle and has one acre of alfalfa and twenty acres of timothy. He built a new house in 1914. Mr. Middleton is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Morton. He has served as school clerk for ten years and is a member of the Catholic church and a member of the C. O. F. Mr. Middleton was married Oct. 2, 1900, to Ellen Tracy, born Jan. 19, 1881. Her father, John Tracy, was a farmer of Birch Cooley township, who came to the county in 1865 and died in 1898 at the age of sixty-five years. His wife, Ann (Bard) Tracy died in 1889. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Middleton: Edward J., born May 22, 1906, and William D., born May 29, 1908.

John Ederer, son of Franz and Annie (Kock) Ederer, was born Jan. 21, 1874, on section 30, Birch Cooley township. The father was born in Germany about 1858 and came to America in 1863. He came to Renville county in 1870 and bought 560 acres in section 30, Birch Cooley township where he remained for two years. Then he sold this land and went to California, where he remained one year. Next he returned to Renville county and purchased 560 acres in Norfolk township, where he lived until his death. The mother is living with her daughter, Mrs. D. G. Avery in Norfolk township. John Ederer remained on the home farm until he was twenty and spent two years in the Franciscan Brothers' School at Waconia, Minnesota. Then he rented the place where he now lives. In 1899 he purchased this farm and now owns 300 acres. He feeds and prepares stock for the market, feeding about fifty cattle and sixty hogs every year. He also raises Plymouth Rock chickens. He raises about fifteen acres of potatoes each year and also has some land in alfalfa. Mr. Ederer has served as county commissioner for four years and as township treasurer for three years. He is a member of the Catholic church, being a trustee of the church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and a charter member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, having held all the chairs. Mr. Ederer is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Morton. May 21, 1895, Mr. Ederer was married to Mary Prosser, born March 15, 1877, daughter of Frank Prosser, who was born in Germany, came to America in 1874, lived in Jackson county for seven years

and died in Mankato in 1886 at the age of fifty-two years, and Theresia (Steidl) Prosser, aged seventy-six, who lives in Mankato with her daughter, Mrs. Wendel Deuser. Mr. and Mrs. Ederer have the following children: Isabel, born August 16, 1896, a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul, Minnesota; Agnes, born April 28, 1898; Bernard, born Jan. 20, 1900; Charlotte, born Oct. 7, 1901, and died Jan. 31, 1910; Leo, born Jan. 4, 1903; John, born March 9, 1905; Marcella, born Feb. 2, 1908; Genevieve, born Nov. 13, 1910; and Loraine, born Feb. 2, 1913. Before her marriage Mrs. Ederer attended St. Peter's and St. Paul's school at Mankato. Mrs. Ederer belongs to the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters and the Degree of Honor, both orders of which she holds the high office at the present time.

Joseph Chisholm, a progressive farmer of Birch Cooley township, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, March 20, 1865. His father, George Chisholm, was a bricklayer in St. Paul and died in 1866 at the age of thirty years and his wife, Bessie (Tisdell) Chisholm, died in 1868 at the age of thirty years. Joseph Chisholm was reared by Mrs. Mary A. Quill, a sister of his mother at Cedar Lake, Scott county, Minnesota. At the age of sixteen, he began working out and continued until he was twenty-three years of age. Then he bought 80 acres of land in section 21, northern half of the southeast quarter, Norfolk township, where he remained for three years. Then he farmed near Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, for two years. Then he went back to the old farm in Norfolk township and remained there until 1902 when he bought 160 acres in sections 8 and 9, Birch Cooley township. He is still there and owns 240 acres, making his home in section 8. He raises Shorthorn cattle, makes a specialty of feeding and preparing cattle for the market, feeding about two ears of cattle and one ear of hogs per year. He has built a fine barn with a cement basement which was completed in 1914, 32 by 100 by 9 feet. Mr. Chisholm bought this farm from George Welsh, who in turn purchased it from Jerry Reagan who bought it from John Costello who homesteaded it. Mr. Chisholm is a member of the Morton Rural Telephone Co. He is also a member of the M. W. A. of Morton. He has been a member of the township board for three years. He has also been clerk for school district No. 19 for nine years. Mr. Chisholm was married Nov. 23, 1886, to Alice McGowan, born March 10, 1867, daughter of Patrick and Chalice (Hall) McGowan. Nine children were born to these parents: Elizabeth, born Jan. 10, 1888, married to John Carr, a farmer in South Dakota; Mary, born August 8, 1890, married to Thomas Clancy, a farmer of Norfolk township; Edith, born Feb. 22, 1892, married to Joseph Clancy of St. Paul; Ross, born March 29, 1894; a barber at Lake Wilson, Murray county, Minn., Edgar, born May 27, 1896; Raymond, born June 2, 1900; Marga-

ret, born Dec. 10, 1902; Elmer, born Oct. 6, 1905; and Ambrose, born May 8, 1909. The family faith is that of the Catholic church.

Louis J. Grellong, a well-known dairyman of Minnesota, was born in Le Sueur county, Minnesota, Nov. 5, 1881. His father, William Grellong, a farmer and pioneer of Le Sueur county, died in 1910 at the age of fifty-three. His mother, Sophia (Westehoff) Grellong, died in 1883 at the age of twenty-five. At the age of seventeen Louis J. Grellong began working in the creamery at Lester Prairie, Minnesota, where he remained for one year. Later he attended the Minnesota Dairy School, graduating in 1901. Then he worked in the creamery at Paynesville, Minnesota, for four years, and then moved to Pearl Lake where he remained for two years. Then he bought the creamery at South Haven, Minnesota, but after a year's time was obliged to sell it on account of poor health and take a rest. After a rest of six months Mr. Grellong moved to Erhard, Minnesota, where he lived for four and a half years. The next year was spent at Fergus Falls as manager of the Ice Cream Company. During the next five months he worked in the creamery at White Rock, South Dakota, and Oct. 1, 1914, became the manager of the Franklin Farmers' Coöperative Creamery Association. Mr. Grellong has made a good record at the different fairs and expositions in his butter exhibits, as the following list will show: Minnesota State Fair, 1905, 97 per cent; Pan-American Exposition, 1901, 96.50 per cent; St. Louis Exposition, 1904, 96.50 per cent; St. Paul, May 1, 1902, 96 per cent; Minnesota State Fair, 1904, 96 per cent; Chicago, May 5, 1902, 96 per cent; St. James, Oct. 21, 1903, 96 per cent; St. Paul, Sept. 28, 1901, 95.50 per cent; St. Paul, Nov. 5, 1901, 95.50 per cent; St. Cloud, Nov. 10, 1901, 95.50 per cent; St. Paul, April 15, 1902, 95.50 per cent; Chicago, Feb. 15, 1906, 95 per cent; Milwaukee, Oct. 1910, 95 per cent; St. Paul, July 10, 1906, 94.50 per cent; St. Paul, June 3, 1904, 94.50 per cent; Chicago, Oct. 11, 1911, 95 per cent; Fergus Falls, Sept., 1911, 94.50 per cent; Mason City, Oct. 11, 1911, 94.33 per cent; St. Paul, June 6, 1911, 94.25 per cent; St. Paul, May 25, 1901, 94.25 per cent; St. Paul, Feb. 2, 1902, 94 per cent; Mankato, Dec. 12, 1912, 94 per cent; St. Louis Exposition, 1904, 94 per cent; Albert Lea, Dec., 1911, 94.25 per cent; Chicago, Nov. 1, 1911, 93.50 per cent; St. Paul, July 15, 1912, 93 per cent; Pelican Rapids, Feb. 1912, 93 per cent; St. Paul, Aug. 2, 1901, 93 per cent; St. Paul, July 1, 1901, 93 per cent; Milwaukee, Oct. 15, 1902, 93 per cent; Chicago, June 3, 1902, 93 per cent; Sank Centre, Dec. 1, 1901, 93.75 per cent; Minnesota State Fair, 1902, 93 per cent; New York, Dec. 11, 1902, 93 per cent; Minnesota State Fair, 1908, 93 per cent; Crookston, Dec., 1911, 93 per cent.

Mr. Grellong is a member of the Red River Valley Dairy-men's Association. He is at present organizing a short course for the farmer boys in dairy feeding.

June 19, 1903, Mr. Grellong was married to Frances H. Nehring who was born Nov. 23, 1882, at Paynesville. Her father, L. F. Nehring, is a retired farmer, aged seventy. They have one child, Arvid La Mont, born May 25, 1906.

Peter H. Pederson, son of Hans and Britha (Mundahl) Pederson, was born in Norway, April 30, 1865. His father was born July 5, 1837, and came to America in 1870, locating in Fillmore county where he remained for four years. Then he purchased 130 acres of land in section 1, Birch Cooley township, to which he later added 37 acres. Here he lived until his death Nov. 2, 1913. The mother was born Jan. 1, 1836, and died Jan. 25, 1909. They had the following children: Anna, born Dec. 30, 1862, and died Aug. 3, 1911, wife of Christ Johnson, a carpenter of Minneapolis; Peter H.; Sina, born Nov. 6, 1867, and died Nov. 27, 1900, who was married to Rev. A. M. Lund, a Norwegian Lutheran minister of South Dakota; Lena, born May 12, 1870, who died March 16, 1913, wife of Christian Christenson, a farmer in Idaho; Andrew, born May 12, 1872, a barber in Franklin; Nellie, born Oct. 24, 1874, and died Dec. 31, 1894; Henry, born Dec. 26, 1876, a farmer in Birch Cooley township; and George, born May 31, 1890, and died April 6, 1907. Mr. Pederson began working out on the farms of the county at the age of twenty years and continued in this work for about fifteen years. Then he operated a threshing machine with his brother Andrew for several years. Next he purchased the farm where he now lives. He has erected good buildings and has built a silo with a capacity of a hundred tons. He raises Durham and Holstein cattle, Duroc-Jersey and Hampshire hogs and Belgian horses, and owns two registered Holsteins. In addition to his farm he has twenty acres of timber land in Brown county.

Mr. Pederson is a stockholder in the mill, creamery and in the Farmers' Elevator in Franklin. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Franklin.

Michael Murphy, a prosperous farmer in Birch Cooley township, was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin, Feb. 5, 1869, son of Peter and Margaret (Bagley) Murphy. The father, Peter Murphy, was born in Ireland and came to America at the age of twenty-one years and lived in Canada for five years. Then he lived in Wisconsin five years and came to Renville county in 1869, where he secured a homestead in section 4, Birch Cooley township and remained there until his death in 1898, at the age of sixty-five years. His wife is still living at the age of eighty years in Minneapolis. Michael Murphy worked in a hardware

store in Morton from 1894 to 1908. Then he rented the home farm and still lives there. He married Margaret Ryan, born Aug. 4, 1869. Her father, Philip Ryan, is a retired farmer, being born in Ireland and came to America in 1873. He is eighty-four years of age. Her mother, Bridget (Gleason) Ryan, died March 24, 1883. Mr. Murphy and his wife have eight children: Matilda, born March 22, 1894; Francis, born Oct. 21, 1895; Mary, born April 23, 1897; Ralph, born July 21, 1900; Margaret Jessie, born Aug. 13, 1902; Raymond P., born March 28, 1904; Florence C., born Oct. 10, 1907; and Bernard M., born Jan. 20, 1915. Mr. Murphy has been assessor of the township for four years and a member of the school board. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Morton and a member of the Catholic church.

Henry B. Pederson, owner of Breezy Point Stock Farm, was born in Birch Cooley township on section 1, Dec. 26, 1876, son of Hans and Brithe (Mundahl) Pederson. Henry B. remained at home on the farm until 1899 when he purchased 160 acres in sections 2 and 11, in Birch Cooley township, in company with his brother Andrew. Here he lived until Oct. 7, 1907, when he rented the farm where he now lives. After four years he bought this place of 160 acres in sections 3 and 10, and made many improvements upon it in the years that have passed. He now owns 240 acres and has built a barn, equipped with electric lights, 26 by 74 feet, and a silo with a capacity of 125 tons. In 1914 he also built a feeding shed 24 by 60 feet. He has a fine seven-room house also equipped with electric lights. The farm and buildings are near the edge of a bluff along the Minnesota river and the land is level and of good soil. Mr. Pederson feeds cattle for the market, shipping about two carloads every year. He has a small herd of Shorthorn cattle and breeds Duroc-Jersey and Hampshire hogs, of which he ships one carload every year. He also raises Mammoth Bronze turkeys, Belgian horses and Letter Back Italian bees. He has thirteen acres which are set aside for the production of alfalfa. Mr. Pederson has been the township treasurer for two years. He is a stockholder in the Mill, Creamery and Farmers' Elevator Company in Franklin. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Pederson was married July 18, 1901, to Caroline Holter, born Sept. 22, 1878, daughter of Hans Holter, a carpenter of Minneapolis, born in Norway, who came to America in 1861, and Christine Erickson, who died April 7, 1890, at the age of forty years. Mr. and Mrs. Pederson have had the following children: Harold, born Dec. 13, 1902; Bernice, born Feb. 11, 1905; George, born Dec. 26, 1906; Helen, born Jan. 2, 1909, and died Jan. 13, 1909; Clara, born July 15, 1910; Edward, born May 11, 1912; and Eleanor, born May 11, 1912, and died Sept. 19, 1912.

Samuel H. Smith, proprietor of the "Plainview Stock and Grain Farm," was born in Bureau county, Illinois, Aug. 28, 1868, son of William and Martha (Edwards) Smith. His father was born in Ireland and engaged in farming in Illinois, dying there in 1870 at the age of thirty-eight years. His mother died in 1899 at the age of fifty-two years. Mr. Smith began working out on the farms of the neighbors at the age of twenty-one years and continued for three years. Then he rented farms in Bureau and adjoining counties in Illinois until 1904, when he came to Renville county and rented a farm in Birch Cooley township until 1912. He then bought 160 acres in section 28, Birch Cooley township, southeast quarter, where he still lives. He has one acre of fruit. Mr. Smith is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company in Franklin. He was married Aug. 12, 1890, to Esther Hubbard, born Dec. 28, 1872, daughter of Isaac Hubbard, born May 13, 1838, in Ohio, who engaged in farming and is now living with Mr. Smith, and Viranda (Warkins) Hubbard, who died in 1900 at the age of fifty-six years. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have the following children: Alice, born Sept. 24, 1891, married to Herman Bucholz, a farmer in Birch Cooley township; Harold, born Jan. 1, 1893, a farmer in Birch Cooley township; Claude, born July 14, 1897; Leonard, born Sept. 3, 1902; and Ina, born Jan. 23, 1911. The three youngest children are at home.

Andrew F. Mahowald, successful real estate agent and leading business man of Morton, was born in Scott county, this state, May 3, 1869, son of Mathew P. and Catherine (Schneider) Mahowald. Mathew P. Mahowald was born in Zimmer, Luxembourg, was brought to Scott county in 1855 by his parents, became a prominent farmer and died Oct. 19, 1900. He married Catherine Schneider who died Oct. 24, 1874, at the age of twenty-eight years. It is interesting to note that Mathew P. Mahowald was preceded to this country by his brothers, John and Mathias, stone-masons by trade, who came to St. Paul in 1851, and worked on many of the first stone buildings in that city, some of which are still standing. Andrew F. Mahowald was reared on a farm, and at the age of nineteen worked a year learning the harness-making trade with his cousin, N. H. Mahowald, at Lakeville, Minn. Then he worked for another cousin, Anton Mahowald, at Bird Island, for two years, following the same trade. Oct. 21, 1891, he came to Morton and opened a harness shop. In 1904 he built a brick building on the east side of Main street in block 9. This building was 25 by 65 feet, one story high with a full basement and cost \$4,000. He operated this shop until 1908, when he bought a building on the west side of Main street in block 10, known as the Charles Wolter Building. It is 25 by 65 feet, two-story with a full basement, made of solid brick and cost \$5,000. He then removed his shop to this building and is

still there, occupying the basement and the first floor of this building with a \$4,000 stock and does business to the amount of \$10,000 a year. He is also a dealer in real estate and does a very good business in local and western lands. He owns 960 acres in Henryville and Norfolk townships and also 320 acres in Alberta, Canada. He also deals in the Overland automobiles in Renville county and does a large business. He has built a fine home in Morton, erected in 1897, a 26 by 32 foot frame building, two stories high, with eight rooms and a full basement. It is furnished with hot water heat, running water, electric lights and is entirely modern, costing \$4,000. Mr. Mahowald has served on the village council for six years and is a member of the Catholic church in Morton. July 18, 1892, Mr. Mahowald was united in marriage to Catherine Lorge, a milliner of Morgan, Minnesota, born August 15, 1867, daughter of Nicholas and Catherine (Schons) Lorge. Nicholas Lorge was a well-known farmer of Nicollet county for several years, and later operated a hotel in Fairfax. He and his wife are now living in Morgan. Mr. and Mrs. Mahowald have five children: George F., born May 22, 1893, who works in his father's shop; Leo A., born Oct. 31, 1905; J. Elsie, born April 25, 1898; Laura E., born Feb. 9, 1903; and Edward M., born April 20, 1910.

Rudolph Diekmeier, a progressive farmer of Birch Cooley township, was born in Germany, May 10, 1872. His father, Frederick, came to America in 1878 and bought 120 acres in section 15, and 40 acres in section 21, Sherman township in Redwood county, Minnesota, where he lived until his death Dec. 27, 1912, at the age of seventy-five years. He held the office of township treasurer for seven years. His wife, Augusta Fixsen, died June 13, 1909, at the age of sixty years. Rudolph Diekmeier remained on the home farm until he was twenty-five years of age. Then he worked out for six years and began farming in 1903. He bought 160 acres in Sherman township, Redwood county, in 1905, in partnership with his brothers, Herman and Fred. He also bought 126 acres in section 35 in Birch Cooley township, September, 1909, with the same brothers, and is making his home there now, having been married Sept. 15, 1915, to Anna Christine Jensen. The three brothers now own 486 acres. They have 125 Durham cattle and about 100 hogs. They make a specialty of feeding cattle and hogs and preparing them for the market, shipping about two carloads of cattle and one of hogs per year. The farms have good buildings. Mr. Diekmeier is a member of the Creamery and Milling Company in Franklin and has served on the Sherman township board for three years. He was also road overseer for three years.

There were the following children in his father's family: John D., a farmer of Redwood county; William F., a drayman in Franklin; Rudolph, a farmer and stockraiser of Birch Cooley

township; Otto F., a retired farmer living at Morton; Matilda, Mrs. William Revier, living on a farm in Sherman township, Redwood county; Herman, a farmer of Redwood county; Fred, a farmer of Redwood county; and Rose, Mrs. William Lussenhop, living on a farm in Paxton township, Redwood county.

Daniel J. McCartan, a prominent dentist of Morton, was born March 25, 1878, in Columbia county, Wisconsin. His father, John McCartan, aged sixty-five, is a retired farmer living at Portage, Wisconsin. His mother, Harriett (Hagan) McCartan, died in 1911 at the age of fifty-five. Dr. McCartan graduated from the Poynette High school in 1898 and from the Normal department of Story's Business College at Portage, Wisconsin, in 1899. During the next two years he taught school, one year in Columbia county, and one year as principal at Brownsdale, Minnesota. He also spent one year selling school supplies for the National Publishing Company. Thereupon he attended the Chicago College of Dental Surgery and graduated from that college in 1905. He located at Morton June, 1905, and has built up a very fine practice. At present he has offices both in Morton and in Franklin. At the Dental College Dr. McCartan was a member of the Psi Omega Fraternity. He is a member of three dental societies and also a member of the C. O. F. and the Knights of Columbus, of which he is Chancellor, at Fairfax. Dr. McCartan has been the village recorder for four years and is at present the clerk of the school board. Nov. 24, 1909, he was married to Mary Kennedy who was born Sept. 29, 1889. She is the daughter of John Kennedy, a groceryman in St. Paul, and Bridget (Glenn) Kennedy. They have two children, John D., born Sept. 15, 1910, and Mary H., born Nov. 12, 1911.

Martin Siegfried, a prominent farmer of Birch Cooley township, was born in Winona, Minnesota, Nov. 9, 1870, son of John and Mary (Tice) Siegfried. John Siegfried was born in Luxemburg and came to America in 1862, remaining in Winona until 1878, when he became a farmer and purchased 160 acres in the southeast quarter of section 10 in Birch Cooley township at \$6.50 per acre. He remained there until his death. His wife is still living at Bird Island at the age of sixty-eight years. Martin Siegfried remained at home until he was twenty-nine years of age. Then he rented a farm for four years. Next he bought 80 acres and his father gave him 60 acres adjoining in section 15, Birch Cooley township, where he is now. He raises Durham cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs and has one acre of fruit land. He has held township offices, having been township clerk for two years and assessor two years. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus at Fairfax and is a member of the Catholic church. He is also director of the Citizens' Bank at Franklin and a stockholder of the Farmers' Elevator and the mill and creamery in

Franklin. Mr. Siegfried was married June 20, 1899, to Barbara Kirchen, born Feb. 26, 1874, daughter of Matthew and Grace (Wadenspaner) Kirchen. Mr. Kirchen was a pioneer farmer of Norfolk township and died Jan. 26, 1914, at the age of eighty-four years and his wife is still living at the age of seventy-one years. Mr. and Mrs. Siegfried have five children: Elizabeth, born July 29, 1900; Grace, born July 10, 1902; Matthew, born March 6, 1904; Bernard, born Dec. 26, 1906; and Margaret, born Feb. 9, 1908.

Fred P. Galle, a substantial citizen of Morton, was born in Brown county, Minnesota, Nov. 23, 1886, son of Phillip H. and Marie (Gruber) Galle. His parents came from Germany in 1882 and settled in this county, the father dying in 1906 at the age of fifty. The mother now lives in Morton. Fred P. Galle clerked in a store in Morgan for five years, then he bought the restaurant of H. C. Quehl in Morton in company with his brother Henry. At present he is a manufacturer of ice cream. Mr. Galle is the village clerk of Morton and is a member of the German Lutheran church. April 24, 1913, Mr. Galle was united in marriage to Mable Wessell, born July 28, 1890, daughter of R. C. and Wilhelmina (Henning) Wessell. Mr. Wessell operates a hardware store in Morgan.

Peter Keaveny, deceased, was born Dec. 1829, in County Mayo, Ireland, and died June 8, 1913. His father, Peter Keaveny, died in Lowell, Wisconsin, July 1873, and his mother, Margaret (Horan) Keaveny died in Lowell, February, 1873. Peter Keaveny, the father, came to America in 1849 and came to Renville county in 1879. He purchased 160 acres in section 20, Birch Cooley township, where he lived until his death. He served for a time on the township board. Mr. Keaveny was married June 27, 1869, to Johanna Fleming, born Oct. 3, 1849, in Worcester, Massachusetts, and died on the home farm July 27, 1906. Eleven children were born to these parents: Peter, born May 6, 1870, a farmer near Hannah, North Dakota, married to Rose Johnson and has six boys and two girls; James, born Feb. 7, 1872, a farmer near Bemidji, Minnesota, married to Mary Murphy, who died May 16, 1911, and has one daughter, Johanna Cecelia, born Dec. 1, 1909; Margaret, born March 29, 1874, at home; Mary, born July 7, 1876, married Nicholas Lanigan, a railroad man of Tacoma, Washington, having two daughters and one son; Patrick F., born Oct. 22, 1878, at home; Anna, born Feb. 14, 1881, married to Michael Murphy, a farmer of Norfolk township, and have two boys and one girl living and one girl dead; Johanna, born July 21, 1883, a dressmaker, at home; Catherine, born Dec. 5, 1885, a teacher in Renville county; John, born Dec. 1, 1887, at home; Ellen, born March 25, 1890, a teacher; Elizabeth, born Aug. 27, 1892, a student at Mankato State Normal school. Margaret, Pat-

rick and John now own and operate the home farm. They are famous as well-known potato raisers, having fifteen acres of that vegetable in 1915. The family are all members of the Catholic church at Morton.

John I. Johnson is one of the leading citizens of the county. He is widely known and has had his part in public life for many years. Now, after successfully farming in Wang township for many years he has retired to Sacred Heart village, where he has erected a pleasant home and where he plans to spend the remainder of his days. He was born in Sweden, Oct. 7, 1845, son of Isaac and Ella (Anderson) Johnson, both natives of that country. The father was born in 1812, in his latter years came to America and spent five years with his son, John I. Johnson, in Wang township, this county, but later returned to Sweden and died in 1898. The mother was born in 1829 and died in 1899. In the family there were five children, Christine, Hannah and John I and two who died in their infancy. Christine came to the United States with her brother John and his wife in 1868. They landed at New York and traveled on to Minnesota, locating in Carver county where Mr. Johnson worked for the farmers wherever he could get work. The second year in America was spent in Minneapolis, working there in the lumber yards. In 1870 he worked on the farms around Hopkins. His wife died and in 1871 he secured a homestead in section 24 in Wang township. That same fall he drove up from Hopkins with an ox team. During the summer he had hired three or four acres of land to be broken. During the first winter he lived with A. H. Weffen, a neighbor, as he had not had time to erect any buildings on his farm. The next spring he went back to Hopkins and worked on the farms again to earn more money to start over again. Late in the fall he bought an old team of horses and an old wagon and drove back to his homestead. That winter he lived in a cellar dug on the homestead. It was 14 by 16 feet and lay on the north side of his homestead. During this winter he hauled wood, fence rails and so on and in the spring began to improve the homestead. For many years he lived alone. He built a small frame house which is now a part of the modern home erected since. During those early days he often ground the wheat in the coffee mill and many a time had to carry a sack of wheat on his back to the feed mill to be ground because the snow was so deep that the oxen could not wade through it.

Mr. Johnson has many interesting stories to tell of the early days and its hardships and privations as well as its joys. During the first winter on the farm he lost his oxen by freezing. He and his partner, Isaac Olsen, were near the Minnesota river after a load of wood when a snow storm came up which gradually became worse. They drove through the storm all afternoon

and night and about 2 o'clock in the morning abandoned the oxen and walked. They afterwards found out that they were only three and a half miles from home but they could not find their way in the storm and became lost. Finally at two o'clock in the morning, a short time after leaving the oxen, they stumbled upon a stable owned by John Fenlow. This was four miles from where they lost their bearings. They still were so frozen and bewildered that they could not find the house and remained in the barn until daylight when they went to the house. Mr. Fenlow took them in and gave them all the assistance he was able. Mr. Johnson was very much overcome by the exposure and was put to bed. He slept steadily till the next morning, and was then in a very weak condition. He had frozen his hands and feet and after coming to his own home was sick for a month.

Mr. Johnson has held several township offices, and has been the assessor and is now the present township treasurer. He has also held several county offices, having been county commissioner for one term, thirty years ago, and also serving one term during the county seat removal. He has served as the clerk of the school board for several years. He is a deacon of the Swedish Lutheran church.

Mr. Johnson was married in Sweden to Hannah Torkelson. She died in Minneapolis at the age of twenty-seven, leaving one boy, Andrew, now in North Dakota. In 1895 he was united in marriage to Charlotte Jacobson who was born in Sweden and came with her parents to Minnesota. Her father was Adolph Jacobson who settled on a homestead in Hawk Creek township. There were five children by this second marriage: Albert and Carl, who were twins and who died in infancy, Hannah, Alfred and Joseph. Joseph is a student in the University of Minnesota.

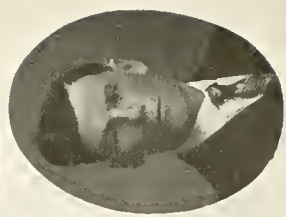
Patrick O'Brien, pioneer, veteran of the Civil war and Sioux Indian campaign, is one of the prominent men of the county, and his stories of the early days are of greatest interest. He was born in Kilkenny, Ireland, July 12, 1845, son of Stephen and Julia (Conway) O'Brien, grandson of Daniel O'Brien of Dumball, and great-grandson of an Irish hero who fought with the Irish troops in France and later came to Louisiana in this country where he died. Stephen O'Brien, born in 1800, was one of the four children, the others being James, John and Patrick. Stephen was the only one of the family to leave Ireland. He boarded the sailing vessel "Washington" with his family, in 1858, and after a voyage of eight weeks landed at the port of New York. From there he came to Rice county, Minnesota, coming from Reed's Landing to St. Paul by steamboat and from there to Shieldsville by ox team. Here he built a house of logs on the small farm and worked for the neighboring farmers until his death in 1862. He was a member of the Catholic church. He was married in

Ireland to Julia Conway, there being the following children: Daniel, James, John and Patrick. By a second marriage, to Margaret Roach, there were the following children: Eliza, Thomas, Mary, Ella and Catherine. His second wife married again, after his death, to John Fitzgerald, a native of Ireland, and a farmer of Rice county, to whom were born Nora and William.

Shortly after their arrival to Rice county Patrick O'Brien, then only thirteen years old, started to work for the farmers in the neighborhood. In August, 1862, the Indian hostilities began and he and his brothers, Dan and John, joined the army, enlisting at Fort Snelling with Company H, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Patrick fought the Indians under Gen. H. H. Sibley and then was sent south to St. Louis, Missouri, and took part in the battles in Tennessee and other important engagements. While under General Sibley he was one of the guards on duty at the time of the execution of the thirty-eight Indians at New Ulm. The Tenth Minnesota was mustered out Aug. 19, 1865, at Fort Snelling. After his discharge Mr. O'Brien located in Dakota county, this state. Then he went to Desha county, Arkansas, where he became manager on a cotton plantation. In 1869 he went back to Dakota county, and engaged in farming in Vermillion township, obtaining a farm of 80 acres where he remained until 1878. Then he moved to Renville county and located on a tract of 160 acres of wild land in sections 5 and 9, in Flora township. In developing the place he erected his home on section 5, but when this home was burned he erected his next residence on section 9. Mr. O'Brien is a lover of trees and his work in setting out trees in Renville county will long be remembered. In all he has set out some twenty-two acres of trees, including some 1,000 plum, apple and cherry trees. Around his 160 acres he set the trees to be a land mark and a guide to travelers in snow storms, during which terrible storms in the early days people, for want of some mark to guide them, often perished only a few rods from shelter and warmth. Mr. O'Brien with shrewdness, intelligence and energy increased his holdings to 828 acres. For many years he carried on general farming, including the raising of a good grade of stock. In 1904 he retired and moved to Renville where he is one of the prominent citizens. On his place here he has also set out many trees and made it a beauty spot indeed.

Mr. O'Brien helped organize the school district No. 97 and was an officer of this district from the time it was organized in 1875 until he moved to Renville. The schoolhouse was built in 1876. Before this Catholic services had been held in private homes. After the schoolhouse was erected, services were held there, the work being conducted under the name of the Emmet Mission. Father Ellhorst, Father Flemming, Father Briody and





Father O'Connor were early priests. Mr. O'Brien has held the position of township supervisor and is a member of the Farmers' Elevator Company and was formerly one of the directors.

Mr. O'Brien was married Aug. 3, 1874, at Shieldsville, Minnesota, to Catherine Hanlon, a native of Iowa, born March 2, 1854, daughter of Patrick and Mary Ann (Burns) Hanlon. Her parents were located near Dubuque, Iowa. In 1853 they came to Rice county, Minn., being pioneers of that county, having come there with General Shields. Mr. Hanlon operated a hotel in Shieldsville and also owned some farm land. Mrs. O'Brien died Feb. 22, 1907. Ten children were born to these parents: Julia, born Sept. 23, 1875, and died March 7, 1888; Stephen, born Sept. 10, 1877; Mary Ann, born June 3, 1879; Ellen, born April 22, 1881; Margaret, born Sept. 26, 1883; Josephine, born Dec. 28, 1888, and died Feb. 18, 1889; John, born Dec. 27, 1889, and died Aug. 9, 1890; Catherine, born May 22, 1893; Patrick, born May 3, 1897; and Emery, born Feb. 10, 1900.

Mr. O'Brien was married a second time, to Mrs. Catherine (McMenomy) O'Brien, a widow of James O'Brien, his brother.

Anton Haubrich, one of the prosperous farmers of Flora township, was born in Germany, near the River Rhine, Nov. 23, 1850, son of Peter and Mary (Schneider) Haubrich. His parents were farmers and came to the United States in 1862 with their family of six boys, Fred, Peter, Anton, John, Joseph and Henry. Joseph and Henry both died soon after coming to Minnesota. They were on the ocean forty-six days and landed at the port of New York. From there they traveled to Minnesota where they settled on a farm, in Le Sueur county, of 200 acres, and lived in a log cabin. Here was born a daughter, Mary, who is now Mrs. John De Gonda, of Olivia. They had a rude straw barn and began farming with an ox team. Next they moved to Nicollet county and then in 1877 they moved to Renville county, locating on section 1, in the township of Flora, on a tract of 80 acres of wild prairie land. Here they built a little frame house and began improving the land. They finally secured 240 acres of land and built modern buildings. Mr. Haubrich died in 1895 at the age of seventy-five years, and his wife died in 1880 at the age of fifty-six years. Anton Haubrich began farming on his own place in section 12, Flora township, in 1879. He built a small frame house, 14 by 18 feet with a lean-to, ten feet wide, all of which is still standing. The farm was all wild prairie land. When he began he had only a team of mules, later he bought a cow and built a straw shed. He started with 80 acres and there was not a fence post nor piece of timber on the farm. He has lived there ever since and has added more acres so that now he owns a half section of well improved land and has built modern buildings, including a large barn, 42 by 64 feet and a fine eight-room house. He raises good stock and spe-

cializes in Shorthorn cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs and Belgian horses. Mr. Haubrich was married in 1875 to Mary Wiesseuriether, born in Le Sueur county, May 31, 1856, daughter of Joe Wiessenriether, a native of Germany, who came to Minnesota, in 1855, and was one of the pioneers of Le Sueur county. Mrs. Haubrich died at the age of forty-seven years, Oct. 12, 1903. The following children were born to this union: Anna, Elizabeth, Rose (deceased), Mary, John (deceased), Anthony V., Joseph, Paul, Lenora, Clara, who is a teacher, Verona and Jennie. Anna is now Mrs. Gustave Zaske of Troy township and has six children: Susan, Viola, Leona, Theodore, Minnie and Donald. Elizabeth is the widow of Louis Brugman and has two children, Albert and Rose Marie. Rose, now deceased, was the wife of Anthony Brugman, and Anthony V. is married and living in Norfolk township. The rest of the children are at home.

Peter Peterson Kronlokken, deceased, was born in Norway, Aug. 26, 1851, son of Peter and Martha, who lived and died in Norway. There were eight children in the family: Andrew, Nels, Peter, Dortha, Ellen, Lars and two who died in infancy. All except Lars and Ellen came to America. Peter left Norway in 1866, coming with his brother Andrew who is now in Iowa. They came to Iowa and worked at the shoemaker trade. Peter went to Renville county in 1871, made his home in the dugout of David Benson and worked as shoemaker among the neighbors. His old bench and tools are still in the family. Later he located a homestead in section 8, in Emmet township, obtaining a tract of 80 acres, part of which was under water. He dug a cellar, 12 by 14 feet, placed a few logs over the top and covered them with sod. He had a team of horses and after two years he bought a cow. After living in the dugout for seven years he built a modern frame house. He also improved the farm and increased it to 600 acres.

Mr. Kronlokken held several township offices. He was a member of the school board. He was one of the organizers of the first flour mill and held an office in the organization. He also helped organize the first creamery and was the general manager. He was the president and manager of the second creamery until it burned. He was one of the members of the Farmers' Coöperative Elevator Company and held the position of president and director and also helped toward the building of the present fine structure. He was also instrumental in securing a good railroad grade. He was one of the first directors of the Security State Bank of Renville and one of the organizers and contractors who built the First Norwegian Lutheran church at Renville, which was later destroyed by a cyclone. He also helped build the present church building and has held several offices of the church. He died in 1910.

Mr. Kronlokken was married to Carrie Leite, born April 10, 1856, in Norway. At the age of seven her parents, Knute and Gunhild Leite, brought her to America, coming to Goodhue county, Minnesota. In 1872 they located in Renville county, Sacred Heart township, section 2. Here he built a house which was one of the best at that time. This house was later used as a schoolhouse and among the teachers who taught there was David Benson. Mr. Leite sold his farm and moved to Brookings county, South Dakota, where he became a large land owner. Mr. and Mrs. Kronlokken have had ten children. Martha, now Mrs. Nels Engen, living on a farm in Erieson township, and has three children, Agnes, Elmer and an unnamed infant; Carl A., who is mentioned in this work elsewhere; Oscar, a farmer of Erieson township; Clara, now Mrs. Ole Johnson of Erieson township; Lars, who is on the old homestead and married Marie Hagen of Lily, South Dakota; Knute, a farmer of Crooks township; John, a farmer of Crooks township; Caroline, telephone operator for the Northwestern Telephone Co. and lives with her mother; Elmer, on the homestead with Lars; and Lillian at home attending school. Mrs. Kronlokken remained on the old homestead until the fall of 1915 when she moved to the city of Renville where she now resides.

Carl Alfred Kronlokken, son of Peter Kronlokken, was born Feb. 11, 1878, in Emmet township. He remained on the home farm until he was nineteen years of age and then went to the Dakotas where he worked for a short time for an uncle. Then he returned to the farm in Renville county. After a year he went to Willmar and took up a business course in the Willmar Seminary. Then he secured a homestead in Ward county, North Dakota, which he proved up and then sold, returning to Renville county where he began telephone construction work. He was one of the first contract workers in this line in the section. Then he went to Lyon county and built the first system out of Minnesota. Next he went to Chicago for the Municipal Engineering & Contracting Co. and traveled for that company for three years. Then he came to St. Paul and worked for the St. Paul Ditcher & Carrier Co. for two years. In 1910 he returned to Renville and took charge of his father's affairs after his death. In 1911 he engaged in the automobile and garage business at Renville, building a reinforced fireproof building, buying the site of the old American Hotel. The first well which was dug in the city of Renville is on this site and is used by the garage. He has a livery and does general repairing.

Mr. Kronlokken is on the committee of the Publicity Club, a member of the Commercial Club and a member of the Fire Department. He is also a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

June 24, 1914, Mr. Kronlokken was married to Dagny Anderson, daughter of Lars Anderson, a pioneer of Belgrade, Stearns county, Minnesota. They have one child, Cecelia Dagmar, born April 4, 1915.

Hans Christian Wein was born in Als Svendstrup, a Danish possession, May 20, 1841, son of John F. and Anna Fredericka (Klausen) Wein, who were workers in wooden ware. There were seven children in the family: John, Clause, Ellen (deceased), Anna, Hans, George and Peter. In 1881, after his wife's death, John F. Wein came to the United States with his daughter Anna, who was Mrs. Jesse Bonde, and located in Sacred Heart township. Hans C. came during the same year and George came later. The sisters remained in Europe. Hans C. grew up in his native village and became a sailor. For many years he sailed the seas, touching nearly every port in the world and spent four years in China. In 1881 he located on a tract of 80 acres in Sacred Heart township where he built a small house of one room, 12 by 15 feet. He also bought a team of horses and two cows. The first year he broke up only a small part of his farm, about fifteen acres, and set to work putting in a crop. As time passed he became prosperous, made improvements on his farm and increased it to 200 acres.

Mr. Wein was married in Europe to Ellen Jenson, who was born in 1850 and died five weeks after coming to Renville county. There were four children by this marriage: Hans J., who is now a pastor of a church at Caledonia, Houston county, Minn.; John, Anna and Christine. In 1882 Mr. Wein married Marie Thompson, born in Felstar, Germany, May 10, 1843, daughter of John and Catherine (Clausen) Thompson, the former of whom was a fisherman, both of whom are now dead. There were six children in the family: Chris, Marie, Matthew, Tena, Catherine and John. John was the first to come to America, Catherine came in 1881 and Tena came later. The rest of the family remained in Europe. By this second marriage there were four children: Ellen, Chris., and one who died, who were triplets, and Marie (deceased).

Jcseph Kienholz, prominent farmer and breeder of Melville township, was born in Amboy, Blue Earth county, this state, Aug. 31, 1876, son of Michael and Elizabeth (Baumgardner) Kienholz. The father was born in Switzerland, Oct. 17, 1843, came with his parents to America at the age of seven, lived in Red Wing, this state, until twenty-three years old, married, and then took 160 acres in Amboy township, Blue Earth county, where he died Dec. 28, 1909. The mother was born in Switzerland, May 4, 1849, came to America at the age of twelve and still lives in Amboy. Joseph Kienholz was reared on the home farm, was educated in the neighborhood schools, and remained with his parents until 1901, when he purchased 160 acres in the southeast quarter of section 4, Melville township, where he still resides. He has built up a splendid

place, and made a specialty of swine breeding, shipping some ninety Duroc-Jerseys each year. He has been constable two years and clerk of the school board for six years.

Mr. Kienholz was married Dec. 18, 1901, to Martha Frazee, who was born in Germany, Dec. 11, 1886, the daughter of Adolph and Louise (Peters) Frazee. Her father was born in Germany, Feb. 19, 1855, was married Oct. 15, 1880, came to America in 1887, and located in Ransom, La Salle county, Illinois, where he and his wife now live. Mr. and Mrs. Kienholz have two children: Clarence, born Oct. 9, 1905, and Irwin, born Dec. 19, 1910. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Ole Shoberg, an industrious farmer of Sacred Heart township, was born in Sweden, April 15, 1866, son of Erick Sundquist and Christine Olson. His parents were married in Sweden and came to America in 1869, landing at Quebec. They went to St. Peter, Minnesota, where the father obtained work on the railroad. They had lost their luggage on the way and had no money. The father was a carpenter by trade, but was willing to do whatever work he could find in order to earn something for food and clothing. In the fall the family moved to Renville county and during the first winter stayed with P. B. Olson. The mother and youngest children rode in the wagon of a neighbor but the rest of the family walked. St. Peter is about 100 miles from Renville county. They also brought with them their cow. At first they lived in a rude dugout but later the father built a better log house, but died before it could be shingled so it stood there for twenty years with a sod roof. This homestead was located in section 34, Sacred Heart township, being a tract of 80 acres. They also owned a team of oxen but lost one when Mr. Sundquist was hauling wheat to Willmar, the animal breaking its leg, which meant quite a loss in those days. Mr. Sundquist was a member of the Lutheran church. He was married Aug. 12, 1843, to Christina Olson. There were four children: Ole, Peter, John and Tilda. Mr. Sundquist died in 1875 at the age of forty-two years. His wife was married again, to Andrew Shoberg. Two children were born to this marriage, Frank and Anna. Mrs. Shoberg is still living at the age of seventy-two years but the step-father is dead. Ole Shoberg grew to manhood in Sacred Heart township and learned the trade of stone mason. He also became a thresher and since 1891 has been in farm work for twenty-one seasons. He farms the old homestead and also works upon his own farm of 80 acres across the road. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and is not married.

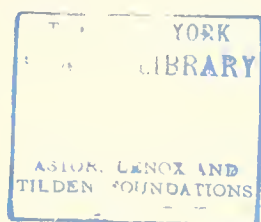
Anthony Sanger, deceased, was born in Germany, and came with his father to the United States when he was about eleven years of age. The rest of the family followed, first locating in Wisconsin and later traveling to Minnesota by ox team, settling

at Mankato. Here he grew to manhood. He enlisted in Company H, Sixth Minnesota, in 1862, and was assigned to military service, taking part in the fight against the Indians at Birch Cooley, in August, 1862. In 1865 he was mustered out of service and returned to Mankato. Mr. Sanger came to Renville county in 1877. He was a carpenter by trade and built the first high school building in the county under the direction of N. G. Poore, of Bird Island, and helped on other buildings. He located on a homestead in section 24, Bird Island township, securing 80 acres on the old Beaver Falls mail route. It was all wild prairie land. He built a small frame house and worked with one ox team. Captain King, a noted character of those days, was his neighbor.

Mr. Sanger served on the township board and on the school board. He was one of those who assisted in getting a school started in this locality. He also was a member of the Catholic church and helped build it. Mr. Sanger was married to Susan Kritz, born in Germany. She came to the United States with her first husband, locating in Minnesota. Four children were born: Charles, Carrie, Mike and Stephen. Mr. Sanger died May 5, 1891, at the age of forty-nine and his wife died Sept. 14, 1900, at the age of eighty-one years.

Michael Sanger was born Dec. 28, 1872, and came to Renville county with the family as a small boy. He received his early education in Bird Island and then took up farming on the home place, he and his brother, Stephen, buying the homestead and the 160-acre tract, the old Captain King place. Mr. Sanger is the present treasurer of Bird Island township and has been on the school board for six years. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and also a member of the Catholic church. Mr. Sanger was united in marriage to Margaret Thomas, who was born in Holland, daughter of Simon Thomas, who brought his family from Green Bay, Wisconsin, to Bird Island township, Renville county. The following children were born to these parents: Clarence, Sylvester, Viola, Gregory, Sophiana, Geraldine and Dorothy.

Martin Nordby, a very successful farmer of Camp township, was born in Norway, July 5, 1858, son of Christian Nelson, a railroad man in Norway, who died in 1912, at the age of eighty-one years, and his wife, Sarena (Olson) Nelson, who died in 1898, at the age of seventy-two years. Martin Nordby, who took the name of the farm, came to America in 1880, and worked out until 1892. He now owns a very fine farm in Camp township, section 14, of 240 acres, and has improved it and built a good substantial barn and silo. He specializes in Holstein cattle. He is a member of the Farmers' Elevator Company, Creamery and Co-operative store in Fairfax. He is also a member of the Society of Equity and of the Hauge's Norwegian Lutheran church. July





MR. AND MRS. DAVID BENSON

23, 1892, Mr. Nordby was married to Segrud Larson, born Nov. 29, 1867. Her father, Ingebret Larson, came to America in 1867 and farmed in Camp township from 1870 until his death, in 1910, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife, Martha (Arneson), died in 1898, at the age of sixty-two years. Nine children were born to this union: Christian, born June 10, 1893; Alfred, born July 23, 1894; Nicolai, born Oct. 1, 1896; Morris, born Sept. 21, 1898; Elmer, born Dec. 10, 1899; Ingvald, born March 23, 1901; Mable, born May 26, 1903; Spencer, born Aug. 24, 1905; Leonard, born Nov. 14, 1908.

David Benson is one of the leading citizens of Renville county. He attained prominence soon after his arrival and he is now known the length and breadth of the county. He is broad-minded, public-spirited, and of kindly temperament, one who keeps thoroughly informed on current events and one who is intimately in touch with the currents of modern life. His appearance in any home in the county is hailed with delight, and especially among the pioneers of the western part of the county a visit from him is something to be highly appreciated and long remembered. Whether as pioneer, citizen, friend, office holder or law maker, he has demonstrated the same sterling worth. His life and influence have left their impress on the county's history and he is now regarded as one of the county's most useful citizens. After many strenuous years of hard work he is now living a retired life in Renville, where he is thoroughly appreciated at his true worth. In the making of this history he has had an important part, and much of its completeness in regard to the western part of the county is due to his untiring and devoted efforts. Something over a hundred years ago, David Anderson was born in the vicinity of Trondhjem, in Norway. His ancestors were sea-faring people, and he naturally, became a navigator. In following this occupation he met with many thrilling adventures. During a North Sea raid of the British men-of-war in 1812, his ship was taken, and was subsequently held for about a year before being released. This David Anderson took up his home on the island of Hedsel. There were reared his five children: Jacob, Martin, Anna, Dorethea and Ingeborg. His wife's name was Dortha Oleson.

In the same neighborhood there lived Lars Gabrielson and his good wife, Ingeborg, and their three children, Bendiek and John (twins) and Ole. Bendiek married Ingeborg Anderson, daughter of David Anderson. She died about 1857, leaving six children: Lars, Sophia, David, Ole, Jacob and Martin. Later Bendiek married Sophia Swenson, and by this union had one child, Ingeborg. He died in 1902 at the advanced age of 100 years, longevity being a characteristic of the family. In fact the ancestry on both sides is a long, unbroken line of sturdy men and women, widely known

for their strength of body and character, their hospitality, and their devotion to the church. To this family on August 23, 1841, was born in Nordland, Norway, David Benson, a son of Bendick Larson and Ingeborg Davidsdatter, and grandson of Lars Gabrielson and Ingeborg Gabrielson, and David Anderson and Dorthea Oleson. He was reared in his native land, received a good education and had the advantages incident upon attendance at the agricultural college in his neighborhood for three years. It was in 1867 that he set his face toward the new world. After arriving at Liverpool, he crossed the ocean to Quebec, found his way to La Crosse, Wisconsin, and from there reached Rochester, Minnesota, where he secured employment in doing clerical work and farming. At about this time, northern people were being urged to go south and raise cotton. Cotton was bringing a good price in the markets and it was represented that fortunes were to be made from a single season's crop. So in 1869, David Benson, with two friends, pooled their funds, and with the \$1,000 thus secured, started for the South. But after various experiences their money was gone and there was no cotton fortune in sight. So they had to work their way back. In Chicago, David Benson worked in the shops of the Northwestern Railway long enough to earn his fare back to Minnesota. Here penniless he started in again to carve his fortune. At Dodge county, Minnesota, he married, and in 1870 came with his bride with an ox team and covered wagon to Renville township and located on section 6, Emmet township, on a piece of wild prairie land. For a time he lived in the wagon in which he had come. His first activity was to cut enough hay for the six head of cattle he had brought with him. Later he devoted his attention to constructing a rude dugout, roofed over with slough grass and sod. In this the family lived until the frame house was erected. During the first two autumns, Mr. Benson worked in the harvest fields at St. Peter in order to earn a little ready cash, walking the entire distance each way. In time, he added eighty acres to the original homestead. He erected suitable buildings, and successfully carried on general farming for some twenty-two years. He and his good wife underwent all the privations of pioneer life and had an important part in the upbuilding of the community. From 1882 to 1886 he was in the railroad mail service. In 1890 he moved to Renville where he now lives. Mr. Benson's public activities have been numerous. In 1873, 1874, 1875 and 1877 he sat in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, being elected on the Democratic ticket. At the session of 1873 he obtained an appropriation for the Hawk Creek bridge to the amount of \$1,000, and in the session of 1874 he obtained an appropriation of \$600 for the Henryville bridge. Among other bills which he introduced was one prohibiting a county attorney from being elected a justice of the peace. For a

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BENJAMIN F. BENSON

number of years he was assessor of Emmet township. From the time of its organization until his removal to Renville he was a director of school district 33. In 1880, 1890, 1895, 1905 and 1910 he was census enumerator for his district. For twenty years he has been a justice of the peace. Fraternally he is a member of the I. O. O. F. Mr. Benson was married September 16, 1870, to Carrie Knuteson, born August 29, 1851, daughter of Knute Akselson and Carrie Knuteson. This union has been blessed with eight children: Bell, Benjamin, Lonisa, Clara, Mary, Anna, Emma and Dinah. Bell is the wife of Dr. Edward Mark Clay, of Renville. Benjamin is in business in Minneapolis. The rest are school teachers. Mrs. Benson's maternal grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Knute Knutson. After the death of her father, they brought her and her mother to America, but soon after their arrival the mother died at Quebec, and the present Mrs. Benson and her grandparents continued the journey to Wisconsin. There the grandmother died, and the grandfather moved to Iowa, two years later moving to Adams, Minnesota, and in 1863 moved to Rockdale, Olmsted county, also in this state, where he died at the age of ninety-five years.

Benjamin F. Benson, of the Benson-Newhouse-Stabeek Grain Commission Co., Room 809, Chamber of Commerce Building, Minneapolis, is one of the Renville county boys, born of Renville county pioneers, who have gone out in the world, far from their native county, and won for themselves a place in the world's activities. He was born on the homestead in Emmet township, son of the Hon. David Benson, and his good wife, Carrie Benson. He attended the old log schoolhouse with whose interesting history his father was so intimately connected, and later studied in the public schools of Renville. It was in 1895 that he left home and started out for himself as collection man in the law firm of Lockerby & Cady, at Forman, North Dakota. Subsequently he returned to Renville, and was employed in the collection department of the first National Bank as well as in the store of J. H. Dale & Co. In 1898, when patriotic fervor was stirring so many of the youths of the land, he enlisted as a private in Co. H, 14th Minn. Vol. Inf. He was sent with his regiment first to Chickamauga, then to Knoxville, Tennessee, and then back to St. Paul, being promoted successively to corporal and sergeant. For a time he continued his former employment at Renville. In 1899 he was appointed by Gov. John Lind as deputy grain inspector, and thereupon moved to Minneapolis. Some two years later he went on the road traveling for various grain commission firms. For a time he was associated with the Way, Johnson, Lee Co., grain commission merchants of Minneapolis; later the Loomis-Benson Co. was formed with Mr. Benson as vice-president, and later the Gold-Stabeek Loan and Credit Co. bought out the Loomis inter-

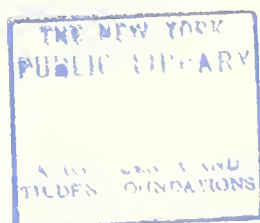
ests and the firm became the Benson-Newhouse-Stabeek Grain Commission Co. Of this concern, which is one of the leading grain commission concerns of the Northwest, Mr. Benson is still the vice-president. The company has branch offices in Duluth, Winnipeg and Chicago, and does a tremendous business. When the Grain Commission Merchants Association was organized, in the year 1911, Mr. Benson became its first president, a position in which he served with much credit and dignity. His standing in the business world is shown by the fact that he is one of the board of directors of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the membership committee of that board. Likewise he is a member of the Minneapolis Athletic Club. True to the staunch religious training of his early years, he has interested himself in church and uplift work. In the Minneapolis Y. M. C. A. he is a member of the board of directors. In the Wesley Methodist Episcopal church he is a member of the official board, a member of the finance committee and the teacher of the Young Men's Bible class of some ninety pupils. Fraternally he is associated with the Renville Lodge of A. F. & A. M. and Renville Camp, No. 145, Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Benson was married January 27, 1906, to Elsie Irene Turner, and they have two children: Bruce Hoyt, born May 28, 1908; and Robert Wesley, born April 25, 1914. The family residence is at 2008 Emerson avenue, south.

James O'Connor, Sr. The story of a penniless Irish immigrant, who in early youth was doomed to total blindness, and who, in spite of this great handicap, achieved, assisted by his heroic wife, a fair measure of success and reared a large family of sons and daughters who have made their mark in the world's work, is a most interesting one, and is distinctive even in this land of opportunity where so many penniless youths achieve fame and fortune. And the story of the wife, a callow Norwegian immigrant, who worked by her husband's side, identified herself thoroughly with the people of his nationality, and aside from attending so efficiently to the physical wants of her family, found time to instill in her children's minds the stannest of principles and the highest of ideals, is no less interesting.

James O'Connor, Sr., was born in Ireland in 1804. At the age of sixteen, when Ireland was in the throes of a great famine, he set out for America hoping to better his condition and hoping also to be able to contribute toward the support of his parents. Landing on Canadian soil he worked on the Wellington canal, then crossing into the United States, he later became a laborer on railroad and canal construction work, working on the first railroad constructed in the United States, and while laboring in this capacity saw pioneer life in various parts of the country. At the age of twenty-two years, while employed on a large construc-



MRS. ELIZABETH O'CONNOR



tion contract at Indianapolis, Indiana, he was stricken with a bilious fever. His physical strength was in time recovered, but his eyesight was totally destroyed. Thus overtaken by so dire a misfortune in the prime of his youth, he returned to Ireland, hoping that in the land of his birth he might once more be permitted to look upon the light of day. But his hopes were blasted, for his condition did not improve. So he returned to America where he remained for about two years. Then, again thinking his sight would be restored by crossing the salt water he returned the second time to Ireland. But finally being convinced that his affliction was permanent he courageously determined to adjust himself to his new circumstances and to make the most of the faculties still left him. With a young nephew, Patrick Malone, to lead him about, he came again to America, and for many years traveled from place to place with a small pack, selling goods in many a hamlet and isolated neighborhood in the middle west as well as in the more populous states of the east. One of his regular selling points was a settlement at Perry, in Dane county, Wisconsin. There, in 1853, he called at a house with his pack and met his greatest happiness. Elizabeth Erickson, a young Norwegian girl who had come to America at the age of 18, was greatly attracted to the witty blind Irish peddler, and after a short courtship, they were married March 16, 1851. From Perry the young couple went to Stoughton, Wis., where they boarded the train for Milwaukee. At Milwaukee they were met by a friend who took them by ox team to Erin, in Washington county, in the same state. Erin was entirely an Irish-Catholic settlement. The young Norwegian girl learned Gaelic before she learned English, and when she finally learned the language of her adopted country it was with the rich accents of her husband's countrymen that she spoke it. Living thus among the kindly Irish people, she was converted to the Catholic religion, and in the faith of that church she and her husband were remarried, this time by the Rev. Father Tierney, their first marriage having been by a justice of the peace. For several years, Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor conducted a store at Erin. In 1857 they sold out, and went back to Dane county, where Mrs. O'Connor had formerly lived, and where Mr. O'Connor had acquired a farm. They broke seven acres of this farm and for nine years lived in a dug-out. As the years passed Mr. O'Connor overcame many of the handicaps of his blindness. By following the sound of the man in front of him he could mow as well as a man with sight. He was an expert rail splitter and could work alone all day long at this occupation, not only splitting the logs into rails, but also building fences with the rails thus manufactured. He was also an adept at many other branches of farming. In 1866 the family started overland for Winnebago county, Iowa, a distance of some eight hundred

miles. A book of this journey might well be written, the blind father, the energetic mother, and the seven children, the oldest ten years old and the youngest (Timothy, now a prominent man of Renville county, and his twin sister, Eliza), four weeks old, form the elements for many dramatic incidents. Arriving at the end of their journey, the family purchased a tract of timberland known as Benson's grove. There they built a log cabin 12 by 14 feet and there the family lived under the most primitive conditions. James O'Connor, Sr., died there in April, 1879, and is buried in the Catholic cemetery at Bristol, in Worth county, Iowa. Though he raised a family of seven sons and five daughters, he never saw his wife or one of the children. The welfare of his family was ever his first interest and his life was one of usefulness and cheer. Elizabeth Svenbalrud (Erickson) O'Connor, his wife, was born in Hadland, Parish of Lemmer, Norway and came to America in 1846, settling in Perry, Dane county, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of Erick and Mary Erickson, who died in Norway. All the children came to America in 1851. They were Mary, Erick, Paul and Sarah. Mary and Paul settled in Renville county, Mary married John Roste, of Sacred Heart. She and her husband are both dead. Mrs. O'Connor was the youngest of the children. She came to Renville county after the death of her husband, and is now living in the city of Renville at the good old age of eighty-seven. The children of Mr. and Mrs. James O'Connor, Sr., were: James, John, Edward, Michael Timothy, William, Abe, Mary, Eliza, Anna (deceased), Anna and Ellen.

James O'Connor, a leading citizen of Granite Falls, is a former resident of, and still an extensive land owner in, Renville county. While his actual residence in this county was of comparatively short duration he has continued actively identified with its leading financial activities for considerably over thirty years. James O'Connor is called in his family, James the second, his father and his oldest son and his grandson, all bearing the name of James. The story of his parents is appropriately told elsewhere in this work. The subject of this mention was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, April 22, 1856, and spent the greater part of his boyhood in Benson's Grove, Winnebago county, Iowa. April 24, 1880, he arrived in Renville county with his brother Timothy. For two years he was in business with several of his brothers in Sacred Heart village. Then for ten years he was in business in Granite Falls. During this period he also did considerable farming, and at the end of the ten years became an extensive buyer of farm lands, operating in Chippewa, Yellow Medicine and Renville counties. He now owns nearly 2,500 acres of land, most of it being within a radius of fifty miles from Granite Falls. For five years, he made his home on a farm in Hazel Run township,



JAMES O'CONNOR

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HENRY NORMAN STABECK

Yellow Medicine county, but with that exception he has lived in the village of Granite Falls since first taking up his residence there. He has one of the best places in the village, picturesquely located on the east bank of the Minnesota river and commanding a most beautiful variety of landscape. Here, surrounded on all sides by the home comforts in which his soul delights he is reaping the rewards of his life of hard work and self-denial. Mr. O'Connor is noted for the liberal support he has accorded all public improvements and his private benefactions have been many. He has taken an active interest in everything that has tended to the betterment and progress of the community, and while he has made a practice of refraining from accepting political office, he has given most admirable service for two years as one of the councilmen of Granite Falls. Mr. O'Connor was married June 22, 1881, to Tena Nelson, who was born July 28, 1861, daughter of Nels' Nelson Jethus, and died February 22, 1909. On November 27, 1911, Mr. O'Connor married Belle Anthony, born in Yellow Medicine county, February 17, 1878, a daughter of Edward and Bessie (Olson) Anthony. Mr. O'Connor has five children: James, Luvina, Alfred, Thomas and Myrtle. James (the third) was born June 13, 1882, married Lena Enger, and has three children, Arda, Myrtle and Evelyn. Luvina was born December 23, 1884, married Alfred Emmerson, and has three children, Carolina, Elien and Jane. Alfred was born August 29, 1886, and died June 11, 1910. Thomas was born July 2, 1888, married Ella Anthony, and has one son, James (the fourth). Myrtle was born November 15, 1891. Nels Nelson Jethus was born in Norway and came to America in 1840. From Fillmore county, this state, he came to Chippewa county in 1866, and located on a farm near Minnesota Falls where he spent the remainder of his life. His good wife, Ellen, died in Seattle, in 1915.

Edward Anthony was born in Adams county, Wisconsin, and married Bessie Olson, who was born in Norway. In 1872 he came to Yellow Medicine county, and farmed in Hazel Run township until his death in 1889. His devoted wife died there in 1882. They had two daughters. Tena is the wife of James O'Connor (the second); and Selma is the wife of H. N. Wilson, who farms in Hazel Run township.

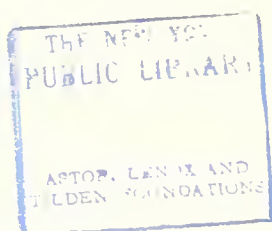
Henry Norman Stabeck, for several years actively identified with the financial, business and social life of Renville county, is now one of the dominant figures in the financial stability of the Northwest. His financial and grain interests are large and in the upbuilding of these interests he has been an important factor in the development of several agricultural and grain raising districts, especially in Minnesota, North Dakota and western Canada. He comes of middle-west pioneer stock, having been born in Davis, Illinois, March 26, 1875, son of Thurston and Torgen

(Patterson) Stabeek, natives respectively of Davis and Durand, Illinois. He attended the high school of Freeport, Ill., the Davis Union School, in his native town; and graduated in 1893. It was that year that he came to Renville and became bookkeeper in the Security Bank. From 1895 until 1902 he was its cashier. In 1902 he became president and retained that office in the First National Bank of Renville which replaced the Security Bank, January 17, 1903, being, it is said, the youngest national bank president in the United States at that time. In the years that followed his personal interests increased in size and importance and in 1907 he resigned his bank position. In the meantime, in 1902, the Gold-Stabeek Loan & Credit Co. had been organized, and for several years a large loan and land business was conducted in Renville. But it grew to such proportions that in 1907 the offices were moved to the Minneapolis building of the Northwestern Fire & Marine Insurance Co., of which company Mr. Stabeek had become vice-president. Of the Gold-Stabeek Loan & Credit Co., Mr. Stabeek is president. The firm does an extensive business in commercial paper, bonds, mortgages and the like, being one of the largest concerns of its kind in the Twin Cities. In connection with its other activities it controls a line of banks in Illinois and North Dakota. Mr. Stabeek is also president of the Benson, Newhouse, Stabeek Co., of Minneapolis, Duluth, Winnipeg and Chicago, a grain commission company which does the largest grain business in the Northwest. He is vice-president of the Anchor Elevator Co., of Moose Jaw, Canada, controlling a large line of elevators along the line of the Canadian Pacific railroad in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada. Fraternally he is associated with the Masonic and Woodmen orders. Of the Interlochen Club he was the first president, and he is also a member of the Minneapolis club, the Minikbda club and the Minneapolis Automobile club. When he turns from his busy labors, Mr. Stabeek finds his recreation in outdoor life. He enjoys golf and trap shooting, and has probably done more big game hunting than any other business man in Minnesota. Mr. Stabeek was married April 5, 1899, to Jennie Alice Carey, daughter of Frank and Alice (Gunderson) Carey, and they have two sons, Vincent Francis Thurston, born July 1, 1901, and Maxwell Norman, born August 23, 1903, both of whom are attending the Blake School, at Minneapolis.

Frank O. Gold, now deceased, banker, grainman, and philanthropist, exerted a notable influence on several generations of modern life in the Northwest, not only in establishing many business institutions and laying the foundation for many important ventures whose results were far reaching, but also finding the time in the course of a busy, useful life to devote to church, Sunday school and charitable work. Combining as he did the



MR. AND MRS. FRANK O. GOLD



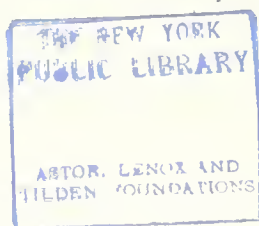
shrewd, careful common sense and far-seeing intelligence of a successful business man, with the moral uprightness, quick sympathy and wide understanding of a devoted and warm-hearted Christian, his influence in church and business, in society and in finances, was beyond measure, and the great good which his life meant to his fellow men can never be adequately comprehended. Frank O. Gold was born in Easton, Penn., August 20, 1855, son of Aaron and Ellen (Cahoon) Gold, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New York, and descended on the paternal side from German ancestry. While Frank O. was a boy, the family moved to Davis, Illinois, and there he completed his education and grew to manhood. His first business venture was as a clerk in a general store in Davis. From there he went to Iowa, and for a while engaged in the grain and milling business at Debnar. About 1878 he engaged in the manufacture of wire bed springs, establishing several factories in various parts of Iowa. Some six years later he sold the patent rights and came to Minnesota, locating in Farmington, Dakota county, where he again engaged in the grain and milling business. It was in 1887 that he came to Renville county, and with his brother, William H. Gold, purchased a lumber yard at Sacred Heart. Some two and a half years later, a branch was established at Renville. To Renville, Frank O. Gold moved in 1890, while William H. Gold remained in charge of the yard at Sacred Heart. Frank O. Gold continued in the lumber business for several years. Gradually he became interested in the land, loan and credit business, as well as in grain dealing. In this connection he worked more or less in conjunction with the Security State Bank. When that bank was reorganized as the First National Bank of Renville, January 17, 1903, he became vice-president, a position he occupied until 1907 when he became president. A year later, the bank was sold to the Dale interests. In the meantime, in 1902, the Gold-Stabeck Loan & Credit Co. was organized, and of this Frank O. Gold had been made the president. For several years a large loan and land business was conducted in Renville. But it grew to such proportions that in 1907 the offices were moved to the Minneapolis building of the Northwestern Fire & Marine Insurance Co. Frank O. Gold, however, remained with the bank in Renville for another year, and then in 1908 moved to Minneapolis and assumed the presidency of the Land & Credit Co. In that position he remained until his death. Mr. Gold was a man of sterling qualities and took a deep interest in every move that had for its object the betterment of humanity. He was just and upright in every walk of his day by day life, a loyal and helpful friend, and a devoted and loving father and husband. The Methodist church ever found him an ardent supporter. In Renville he helped build the present Methodist Episcopal church. In Minneapolis he was steward, trustee and Sun-

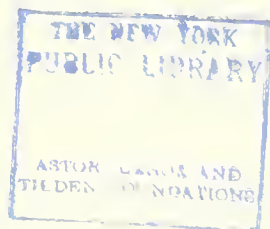
day school teacher in the Wesley Methodist Episcopal church until the time of his death. He was one of the most prominent lay delegates in the Minnesota conference of the Methodist Episcopal church and in 1904 was sent as a lay delegate to the general conference at Los Angeles. He was also an official of the State Sunday school association. His benefactions to charitable and religious organizations were many. Mr. Gold was married July 20, 1884, to Elizabeth Nichol, who was born at Marealls, Illinois, August 15, 1859, daughter of James Franklin and Harriet (Hecox) Nichol, natives respectively of Ohio and Michigan, who as young people went to Illinois, and were there married, the father dying in Renville, Minn., in 1900, and the mother now making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Gold. Mr. and Mrs. Gold had three children: Roy Clinton, Roy Franklin and Minor Bidwell. Roy Clinton was born June 18, 1888 and died February 10, 1889. Roy Franklin was born May 5, 1890, and is now treasurer of the Gold-Stabeck Loan & Credit Co. He graduated from the Minneapolis West High school, attended the Hamline University two years, and the University of Minnesota one year. He married Vera Locker, and they have one son, Frank Locker Gold. Minor Bidwell was born October 5, 1892, and is now with the Benson, Newhouse, Stabeck Co. He attended the Minneapolis West High school and the Hamline University.

Patrick H. Kirwan, who for many years exerted a powerful influence on the life and destinies of Renville county, was born in Towanda, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, March 17, 1851, son of James and Mary (Blake) Kirwan, pioneers. He was taken as a child to Columbus, Columbia county, Wisconsin, attended the district and graded schools there, and took courses at the Wayland University at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. In 1874 he took up farming at Riceville, Iowa. In 1875 he came to Brown county, Minnesota, and taught school there that winter. It was in 1876 that he located in Beaver Falls village. After teaching school four terms he engaged in the grocery business in that village. In September, 1878, he was appointed auditor of Renville county to fill a vacancy. At the next election the voters returned him to the position, and in that office he remained for twelve consecutive years, with much credit to himself and greatly to the satisfaction of his constituents. That was the time when the political life of the county was at fever heat, and Mr. Kirwan was ever in the forefront in the numerous contests for political supremacy. After he retired from office he moved to Olivia, and was associated with the O'Connor brothers in the organization of the Olivia State Bank, of which he became the cashier. In November, 1895, when President Grover Cleveland appointed him U. S. Surveyor General for Minnesota, he resigned his position in the bank, greatly to the regret of his associates, and moved to



PATRICK H. KIRWAN







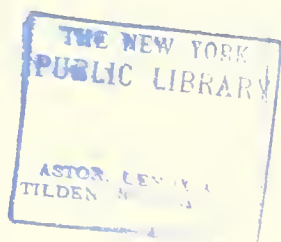
WILLIAM J. ASHLEY

St. Paul where he took up his new duties. In 1900 he retired from office, and devoted his time exclusively to the land business, in which for several years previous he had been more or less interested. He has offices at 201 New York Life Building, St. Paul, and is extensively engaged in the business of farm sales, loans and mortgages in Minnesota and North Dakota. Mr. Kirwan still retains some of his interests in Renville county. He has developed and improved Prairie View Farm, his 520-acre place, six miles south of Olivia, in Henryville township, until it constitutes as good a farm as is to be found in the township. This farm, which he has owned for thirty years, he now rents. He also owns large tracts of land in Nelson county, North Dakota. Some of this land he rents, but he and his son, James F., operate about 1,500 acres of it, Mr. Kirwan spending the larger part of his summers there. A specialty is made of raising Percheron horses and Shorthorn cattle from registered sires, and in addition a successful line of general farming is carried on. Some time ago, Mr. Kirwan, in order to better handle his North Dakota interests, organized the State Bank of Juanita, at Juanita, Foster county, North Dakota, of which he is president and principal owner. Patrick H. Kirwan was married July 20, 1875, to Mary E. Bridges, who died in St. Paul, September 24, 1896, leaving two sons, James F. and John H. James F. was born at Otsego, Wisconsin, August 20, 1877. He is engaged with his father in farming in Nelson county, North Dakota. He married October 8, 1909, Anna Wilhelm, of Delano, Minnesota, and they have one son, James, born October 31, 1910. John H. was born in Beaver Falls, Minnesota, December 7, 1879, and is now cashier of the State Bank of Juanita, North Dakota. He married Julia Kelly, January 17, 1916. On February 4, 1901, Patrick H. Kirwan married Anna B. Horgan, of Blue Earth, Minnesota. The family residence is at 231 Arundel street, St. Paul.

William J. Ashley, mayor of Renville, and consequently the only city mayor in Renville county, is one of the leading citizens of the community. He has devoted the greater part of his life to the milling industry. Born in Lodi, Columbia county, Wisconsin, October 4, 1861, son of James W. and Laura (Narracong) Ashley, he was reared in Markesan, Wisconsin. At the age of seventeen, he went to Trout Run, near Black River Falls, Wisconsin, to learn the milling business from his uncle, Jonas Narracong. Some three years later he joined his father at Fox Lake, Wisconsin, and then returned to Markesan, the home of his boyhood, and took charge of the mill for three years. He was then successively employed as miller at Ettrick, Taylor Station, and North Bend, all in Wisconsin. In the summer of 1888, he went to the pine region in the northern part of that state. It was in the fall of 1888 that he came to Renville county and took charge of

the Farmers Milling Co. mill at Sacred Heart for some two years. Then he took a trip of a few months to the Pacific coast. Upon his return he again took charge of the mill at Sacred Heart for a short period. Subsequently he went to Rockford, Iowa, where he leased a mill with the option of buying it, but finding that the wheat raising industry was on a decline in that state he decided not to buy. Returning to Minnesota he leased the North Star mill at Granite Falls, Minnesota, and conducted it for about a year. Then, in partnership with C. R. Beal, he went to Warner, South Dakota, leased a mill and elevator, and dealt in wheat and operated the mill for about a year. For some nine months he was in Minneapolis where he received treatment for his eyesight, and at the end of that period went to Iowa and leased the Okoboji mills at Milford. It was in 1896 that he came to Renville, and in company with Ed O'Connor, purchased the flour mill, which they conducted for three years. Then, Mr. Ashley bought out his partner and became sole owner and proprietor until 1914, when he took August Moline as a partner, an arrangement which still continues. The mill manufactures the "Ideal" and "Harmony" brands, and their flour is sold extensively to local dealers, the largest shipping point, however, being Chicago, to which place the flour is sent in earload lots. Mr. Ashley is also interested in agriculture, and has good farm property in Ericsen township. He is a prominent man in the community, was the first alderman at large of the city, has served the city in various other capacities, and has been mayor for the past five years. He is socially inclined and belongs to the Masonic body and to the Woodmen. William J. Ashley was married February 7, 1898, to Anna O'Connor, daughter of James O'Connor, Sr., and Elizabeth Erickson O'Connor. Mr. and Mrs. Ashley have had five children: June, Myrth, Ardua (deceased), Ruth and James. James W. Ashley was born in New York state, the son of Stephen and Nancy (Waterbury) Ashley, the former of whom, a miller, brought his family to Wisconsin at an early day, and there spent the remainder of his life. James W., like his father, was a miller, and after coming to Wisconsin, spent the remainder of his days in that place. He died in 1894. By his wife, Laura Narracong, who died in 1873, he had two children, Eva, now Mrs. Charles Bolen, of Black River Falls, Wis., and William J., of Renville, this county. By his second wife, Mrs. Martha (Nelson) Lord, he had one son, Harry N., now cashier of the First National Bank of Raymond, Minnesota.

Charles J. Whitney, one of the well-known business men of Hector, is a man of cordial and genial temperament, who for many years has had his part in the commercial and social life of the village where he now makes his home. He was born in Fillmore county, this state, September 12, 1872, son of Oscar L. and Amelia M. (Riley) Whitney, and grandson of Lemuel and Fanny





MR. & MRS. OSCAR MILLER

(Gould) Whitney, and of Volkert and Ann (Bloom) Riley, and descended from Revolutionary ancestry. The name "Whitney" is of English extraction and is followed back in a direct line to John and Nancy Whitney, who landed in Massachusetts, from England, in 1635. Among the very earliest colonial pioneers, and whose numerous descendants have taken an active part in all of the subsequent development of this country. Charles J. Whitney was brought to Renville county by his parents in 1880, and spent his boyhood in Brookfield and Melville townships, this county; Grafton township, McLeod county; and the city of Minneapolis, before locating in Hector with his parents in May, 1890. He attended the public schools of the various places in which he lived, and in 1892 completed the business course of the Wesleyan Methodist Seminary at Wasioja, Minnesota. He started his career in 1891 in the employ of the McGregor Lumber Co. at Hector. In 1893 he became a grain buyer, working in this capacity in Hector and in Redwood Falls. In 1898 he connected himself with the Northern Shade-Cloth Co. at St. Paul, where he worked for nine years. It was in 1908 that he again came to Hector and entered into partnership with his brothers-in-law, W. B. Strom and R. F. Clark in the W. B. Strom Drug Co. His courtesy and integrity have helped in the success of this pioneer firm. For eight years Mr. Whitney was assistant postmaster under W. B. Strom. He is an active member of the Commercial Club. Fraternally he is associated with Hector Lodge, No. 158, A. F. & A. M. He is also a member of the Minnesota Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Mr. Whitney was married Jan. 30, 1897, to Effie M. Clark, born in Victory, Wis., daughter of Calvin and Sarah (Wilcox) Clark. They live in a well-furnished, modernly-equipped home, constructed of stucco work, one of the prettiest homes in the village.

Oscar L. Whitney, for several years a resident of Renville county, was born in Illinois, son of Lemuel and Fanny (Gould) Whitney. He was reared in that state, and as a young man went to Minnesota, where he married Amelia L. Riley, daughter of Volkert and Ann (Bloom) Riley. They settled in Fillmore county, this state, soon after their marriage, and in 1874, located in Dodge county, this state. In 1880, they came to Renville county, and located on a homestead of eighty acres in Brookfield township. In 1883 they went to Minneapolis, but in 1884 located in Grafton township, in McLeod county. In 1890 they came to this county again, and bought a farm in Melville township, from which in 1892 they came to Hector. For some years Mr. Whitney had combined horse dealing with farming, when, in 1898, he went to St. Paul, opened a feed stable, and continued as a horse dealer. His health failed, however, and he died in St. Paul March 4,

1910. His good wife died in that city, May 25, 1912. In the family there were three children: Charles J. is a merchant in Hector. Nellie was born May 30, 1874, and is now the wife of John Knox of St. Anthony Park, this state. Roy was born May 30, 1876, and is a steam engineer at Heron Lake, Minnesota. He married Velzora McAdam of Pine City, Minn., and they have three children, Ruth, Merlin and Lois.

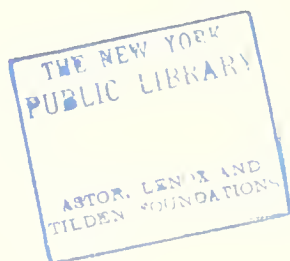
William E. Morris, county agricultural agent, Renville county, and agent of the United States Department of Agriculture, the work being carried on under the United States Department of Agriculture, the College of Agriculture, University of Minnesota and Renville County coöperating, was born in Middlebury, Wis., Dec. 23, 1886, son of David J. and Clara B. (Theobald) Morris, and was reared on a dairy farm at Ridgeway, Wis. He attended the state graded school of Ridgeway, graduated from the Wisconsin Academy at Madison, Wis., in 1905, and from the College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, in 1909. In 1909-11 he was connected with the Department of Dairying, Wisconsin College of Agriculture; in 1911-13 he was in charge of the Animal Husbandry and Dairying departments of the La Crosse (Wis.) County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy. In August, 1913, he started his duties as county agent of Renville county.

Ole O. Enestvedt, Sr., His Family and Times.—A life sketch by Mrs. Anne Enestvedt. My husband, Ole O. Enestvedt was born on the farm Enestvedt in Opdal Annex, Nore parish, Numedal, Norway, March 5, 1835, of parents Ole E. and wife, Joran, born on North Kittilsland in Nore. His grandfather, Ole Tollefsen E. was sheriff in Nore parish. The Enestvedt family was a large one, eleven brothers and sisters grew to mature age, viz., Hielga, Ragnild, Tollef, Kittel, Guri, Ole, Barbro, Reier, Lars, Joran and Gunild. Of these only two are living, Joran, single, at the Enestvedt home in Sacred Heart, and Gunild, now Mrs. P. O. Kittilsland. I was born on the farm, South Kittilsland, in Nore, Numedal, Sept. 5, 1841, of parents Knut Kittilsland and Sigrid, born at Bakke, Veglid. Seven brothers and sisters reached mature age, namely, Vighild, Anne, Liv, Sigrid, Engebret, Margit and Ingeborg. One, Mrs. Liv Knutson, is now living in the town of Swedes Forest, Redwood county, and three are in Norway. I was next oldest of the children. My oldest sister Vighild had to stay on the farm in the valley with the folks, while I had to stay with mother and the smallest children on the sater or mountain dairy, herding stock and taking care of the little ones. I was in this work from 9 until 16 years of age.

One of the last summers up in the mountains, we had an adventure which I will relate. There was an old bear in the woods around the sater, which used to break into the stables and chase



OLE O. ENESTVEDT AND FAMILY



the sheep and goats away in the nights. Sometimes he would kill two or three, at other times he would get scared so he would get nothing. One night he came and got the goats and sheep out, drove them past our sater house. Mother heard it at once, and rushed out, calling back again to me: "Anne, now you must get up, the bear has taken the small stock out," and then ran after the flock in her nightgown, without having any shoes on even, the sheep running ahead followed by the bear, and mother following him. It must be remembered that there were no men-folks up there for miles around. I came out of bed pretty fast, but put on my shoes and dress and woke my younger sister, bidding her take care of the little ones if necessary. When I came out, mother called again: "Anne, you have to take the north mountain road, the goats went that way; I have the sheep and the bear." I ran through the fir thickets up along the mountain side, for about one mile, calling to the bell-goat, which at last stopped above the forest line. I took hold of her bell-collar and called to the others and a whole flock of scared goats followed and we started back again. At times the goat ran so fast that I would fall over, but I held fast to the collar and was dragged along, running and falling alternately. In this way we soon got down again to the sater, where mother already was waiting for us. She had scared old bruin away, had got the sheep together and was back ahead of us. We now chased the whole flock into the stable and hunted up nine more sheep in a corner of the broken shed where they were bleating piteously. While engaged in this we heard a crushing, breaking noise in the thicket outside. In the morning we discovered that the bear had been back again and had devoured an old carcass left there by a hunter some time ago. That day we found all the missing sheep, except a small goat kid, which mother said the bear had to have for his trouble. But late in the fall this young goat also was found.

I will also tell about a wolf that came to our sater when mother was in the hayshed. She heard the goats jump and act scared outside and looking out she saw that two of the goats were missing. Looking way up the hillside, she discovered a large wolf in the act of throwing a dead goat on his back, and heard a goat-kid bleat. She ran to the place and found that the wolf had torn the kid from the goat, and that it was still alive. But as the little thing would be motherless, she thought best to end its sufferings by killing him. Then she ran after the wolf who with his burden had disappeared in a thicket. When she got there she found the other goat torn to pieces, but Mr. Wolf made good his escape with the one he carried on his back. To us children it was a sad event that mother had killed the little kid. We would have brought it up for curiosity's sake.

At the age of 23 years I was married to Ole O. Enestvedt on

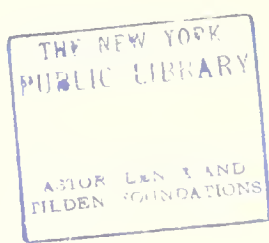
June 4, 1864, in Nore church, by Rev. C. C. Olsen. The same day we moved to the old Enestvedt home, where we lived for two years. On the seventeenth of December, 1865, our first child, Ole O., was born, and the following spring, in May, we came to America. We stopped a while at Christiania, where my husband, on the recommendation of Prof. Gisle Johnsen, bought religious books for \$150. One-half the number of these books were the Konkordibogen, and Luther's Explanation to the Epistle of Galatians, and other books.

We bought a ticket with the Allan Line and were the first ones to come by steamship. It was the "Peruvian" and we were three days in crossing the North Sea and eleven days across the Atlantic; we landed in Quebec, June 20, and came to Madison, Wis., the twenty-sixth. Here we happened to meet old Nils Smithback, who said he was next neighbor to my Aunt, Ambjor Morkvolden, already settled on Koskkonong. He offered to let us ride with him home, but it was twenty miles out, and the oxen jogged along at a slow rate. We rode the rest of the day and half of the night in a wagon without a spring seat, a board across the box serving this purpose. Our little boy was sick at the time and Mr. Enestvedt was ill from drinking iced water at a hotel in Madison, so it was a very dreary and unpleasant journey. But we were received with such genuine hospitality on our arrival, that our troubles were soon forgotten. My aunt was a widow and lived here with her youngest son Gjermund. We enjoyed a week's rest here, when they took us to Stoughton, Wis., where we boarded the train for Prairie du Chien, and crossed the Mississippi on a ferry boat to MacGregor, Iowa. From this place we drove nearly all night in a pouring rain for 22 miles to Hans Svensrud and a few days later came to our destination with Lars Reiersen Oset, who was second cousin to Mr. Enestvedt. With these hospitable and cordial people we stayed about one year. Many other newcomers, whether relatives or not were well received here by the lively and able housewife, Gunild, and found a temporary home, until they could get a home of their own. During harvest my husband hired out to Ole Evensen Lien from Skudalen, Numedal. He had to sit on a reaper and rake the grain in bunches off the platform (the hand rake reaper) myself and the boy going there also, but after harvest we all went back to Reiersen. I shall never forget the good-will and hospitality we received during our stay there. Reiersens had three children and an adopted daughter, a son, Nils, was born later. They afterwards moved to Blooming Prairie, Minn., where Mr. Reiersen recently died as a well-to-do man, respected by the whole community. His wife Gunild is living.

We stayed with these people all winter, and had a room by ourselves and had a pleasant stay altogether. Mr. Reiersen did



WIFE AND CHILDREN OF OLE G. ENESTVEDT, SR.
 LEFT TO RIGHT—TOP ROW: REIER JOHN, CARL CHRISTIAN, OLE G. JR., THEODORE, ENGBRET G. BOTTOM ROW: SOPHIA
 HELENE, MRS. ENESTVEDT, JORGINE CAROLINE, ANNA REGINE, LOUISE MARIE.



not only care for the material well-being of his people, but also ministered to their spiritual wants by reading a chapter every evening out of the Bible, and questioning his children about what he had read to be sure that they had understood the words. Blessed be his memory. Many books of those which Mr. Enestvedt brought from Norway were sold here in Clayton county, Iowa. My husband also went to school a couple of months here, and acquired in this short time a working knowledge of the English language.

In the spring of 1867, in April, Mr. Enestvedt and his brother Tollef started out afoot from Clayton county, they having heard of free homestead land along the Minnesota river. They took a northwesterly course from Albert Lea, through New Ulm and Redwood Falls and crossing the river to Renville county, they took their claims side by side, making a few necessary improvements, bought a yoke of oxen each, and borrowed wagons. With these they came back as far as St. Peter, where they found myself and "the boy" and the household goods which all had come by steamboat along the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers. Another newcomer, Erick Nilsen, had come with me from Clayton county, and now joined the party. We now had a four days' journey by oxteam to our destination and it rained nearly all the time, so that the country was flooded in many places. When we arrived at Beaver creek, on the north side of the river, people told us that we could not cross the stream, that many wagons had tipped over and been carried away by the current. Mr. Enestvedt, being a tall man, waded out into the stream and found a rock in the ford that had been the cause of the wagons tipping over. His oxen were so well broke that while he remained standing on the rock he commanded them to come on past him, and we got well across, although the water reached to the top of the wagonbox. I sat on a chair with baby in my lap and by holding my dress well around me, I only got wet on my feet. After that all went well and in the evening of the twenty-seventh of June we arrived at our farm in South Sacred Heart, where we continued to make our home.

The first year of our stay here everything was high priced and no crop was raised. This was the second year of the settlement. A barrel of flour cost \$16 and had to be hauled 35 miles, the driver receiving \$2 for every barrel hauled for the neighbors. But we were in good health and time passed fast. Although we had no minister we had good books to read and we used to gather in each others' houses Sundays, where Lars Rudi from Opdal Numedal (who had been a lay preacher in the old country) would lead in prayer. He then read a sermon in "Luther's Postille," and we sang out of "Guldbergs" hymn book. Mr. Rudi died in 1913, 86 years old, but his wife is living. During

these first years the balance of Mr. Enestvedt's book supply was sold, or given away to those in poor circumstances. The fall of 1875 was a time of trouble and accidents for our family. Our horses ran away and tipped the wagon and broke my left arm at the wrist, and about a month later when the doctor was ready to remove the bandage from my arm, he had to administer to Mr. Enestvedt who in another runaway had broken his leg above the knee. The trips of the doctor these 20 miles and other expenses amounted to some \$350. But through these hard times the Lord helped us out, so that we never suffered any privation. But deeper sorrow settled on us in the early eighties when my husband through exposure on long trips in winter and during threshing life in early days, contracted the disease which after seven years of battle, laid him in an early grave. He died in 1887 at the age of 52 years. A loving husband and a Christian, helpful neighbor passed away and left me a widow with nine children, the youngest barely one year old. Still even through these, the darkest days of my life, the Lord was with us, and I have been able since then, to give all my children a good education and seen most of them start a home of their own and in good circumstances.

Our eldest son, Ole O., who came with us from Norway, attended Willmar Seminary two winters, but was obliged to leave on account of his father's death. He managed later to take up a course at the Minnesota School of Agriculture, graduating from this institution in March, 1894. He married Anna Johnson in 1895 and is a farmer in South Sacred Heart near the old homestead. His children are: Ole, Alfred, Richard, Carl, Agnes, Inga. He is at present secretary of the Numedalslag of America.

Jorgine Caroline, graduate of Willmar Seminary, taught common school for several years, was twelve years teacher at Martin Luther Orphans' Home, Stoughton, Wis. Then she followed the missionaries to Teller, Alaska, where she was employed as a teacher at the Esquimaux Mission Station there for seven years. She is at present teaching in Santa Barbara, California.

Sophia Helene attended Willmar Seminary, taught common school and Norwegian school, worked at the Orphans' Home, Stoughton, Wis., attended Palmer School of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa, from which institution she graduated in 1909, and on January 15, 1911, took the State Board examination and received license to practice in Chicago, Ill. She is at present practicing physician at 2321 Milwaukee avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Carl Christian attended Willmar Seminary, then located in Belleview, Minn., as grain buyer, afterwards going in company with Belleview Mercantile Company, and is at present cashier in

the State Bank of Belleview. He is married and has three children: Myrtell, Norman, Harold.

Theodore attended Luther College two winters but had to discontinue his studies on account of poor health. He visited Norway in company with his sister Jorgine, where he stayed one year. On coming back he settled down as a farmer near the old homestead. The three brothers' land joins, amounting to 802 acres. He is married and his children are: Oliver, John, Louis, Marie, Janette, Anna, Valborg.

Anna Regine graduated from Willmar Seminary, taught common school several years, married G. H. Kravik, now of Everett, Washington. They have six children, Viola, Harold, Sylvia, Knut, Mildred and Gerald.

Engebret German, a graduate from the Minnesota School of Agriculture, is operating the old home farm. He makes a specialty in fullblooded Holsteins and seed corn. He is married and has three children: Odin, Alberta and Johannes.

Reier John studied chiropractice and is located at Chicago, Ill.

Louise Marie graduated in 1906 from the Lutheran Normal School, Sioux Falls, S. D., taught English and Norwegian school near home and died Sept. 13, 1908.

As for myself I visited Norway a few years ago and found my aged mother living (she is dead now), and renewed old acquaintances and saw the places where my happy childhood was spent. Later I visited my daughter, Mrs. G. H. Kravik, on the coast and am at this writing staying with my daughter in Chicago. I am usually in good health, and have only this to say when I think of the past. "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which thou hast shewed unto thy servant." Gen. 32:10.

Further Remarks on the Enestvedt Family.—The immediate cause of Ole O. Enestvedt, Sr., leaving the old country was that in order to buy the old home farm he would have to go in debt for a large sum of money and the process of getting ahead in a material way was very slow in that country in those days. He once thought of moving farther out of the valley, where the country was more adapted to agriculture, but then his father-in-law uttered these brave words: "If you have to move any way, go to a country where it seems to be decidedly easier to make your way in the world than here." Brave words, indeed, because he knew what it meant to have his dear ones go away where he might never see them again in this world. Acting on his advice, they bid their friends good-bye and took leave of the dear old places where their "fathers had worked and their mothers had wept" and went to the unknown country with barely enough of worldly possessions to give them a start.

Mr. Enestvedt was a devoutly religious man and therefore provided for spiritual as well as material needs by buying religious books to the value of \$150 to take with him and sell or give away to his countrymen in the distant land. His bosom friend, Lars Rudi, who emigrated the same spring was perhaps instrumental in his going to America. They both stayed for a while in Clayton county and in the spring of 1867 (although not in the same company) they came to Renville county and chose claims about a mile apart. Mr. Enestvedt accompanied by his brother Tollef made the journey afoot from Clayton county, Iowa, up here, some 300 odd miles in the spring about April 1, with only their coarse leather boots and their homemade clothes to protect them. Rubber clothes and boots were not dreamed of in those days and while journeying up they were compelled to go for days with wet feet and clothing. Luckily they came from a country where hardships were not unknown, and they never stopped until their purpose was accomplished. Mr. Enestvedt took a claim under the hill in the river bottom on section 15, township of Sacred Heart, and Tollef located on adjoining land on the hill. Lars Rudi, who came a little later located a mile farther down the bottom in section 22.

How these three neighbors kept together through good and bad, for their spiritual as well as material betterment is known to all here. Being of the same religious belief they were instrumental in getting the neighbors together on Sundays for reading and singing their old church songs and later in getting missionaries out into the new country to preach the word of God. Mr. Enestvedt's log house was for a number of years used as a meeting house in winter, while in summer when the attendance was larger, the temple of nature was resorted to as a place of worship. On a level place in the grove below the house, under some magnificent basswood trees a space was raked off clean, and provided with boards to sit on, and a platform for the minister between four large trees, and here in communion with Nature and their Creator the settlers worshipped their God as devoutly as in the most magnificent cathedral.

Having acquired a fair knowledge of the English language, Mr. Enestvedt was a useful man in the community, not only in church and school matters but in town and county affairs. He was chosen treasurer at the first town meeting and afterward held several town offices. He was also a very generous man, helping those who were in need with money or otherwise, whether they could repay him or not. The trips to Willmar with oxen always taxed the strength and ingenuity of the settlers, and Mr. Enestvedt used to tell of how he, being a tall and strong man, had to help his neighbors to carry their wheat sacks across Hawk creek (or Mud creek) when the spring water made it too deep

and the bottom too soft to cross except with the empty wagon. Fancy the task of wading across a stream waist deep in mud and water 20 or 30 odd times with a bag of wheat on the back and then starting out on a 25-mile ride. Or in winter with only scant clothing to drive across the treeless prairie when a snow-storm is raging, obliterating the track. The only way to keep warm is to travel, by the side of the oxen holding on to the rope or horn with one hand and shading his eyes with the other. Mile after mile is passed this way and the track is distinguished only by the lumps thrown up by the roadside or if this fails the last resort is to feel the way with the feet. In one case when father had gone to Willmar in the morning and mother to a sick neighbor woman the great three-day snowstorm came up in which father and others of his party came near losing their lives but finally came to a settler's cabin, and mother had to stay for three days at neighbor Rudi's only a mile away. But to the children at home, although two grown persons were present, it seemed an age before old man Rudi on the third day made his way to our house and told us that mother was at his place and would come home the next morning.

Running the threshing machine in those days was also a hard job, exposure, cold and hard manual labor trying the stamina of the pioneers. Feeding the machine was a hard and dusty job, while to "stand in the strawpile" was still worse. At the age of 45 years Mr. Enestvedt contracted the disease (dropsy) which seven years later laid him in an untimely grave.

The first cellar house of the family was dug half way into the ground with three or four rounds or tiers of logs and an earth roof and earth floor and walls. These were soon sheeted over with boards from logs from our own grove hauled to the saw-mill. But the roof remained the same for many years and the narrator of these pages had his farm up there out of reach of chickens and other marauders. Here he would plow with the the corner of the hoe, put his wheat and oats in with a spike-harrow and cut his crops, if the shallow bottom should not in dry seasons make it a total failure. When the shingle roof chased him off there was an end to this and the building was afterwards changed so that the lower half was made a full cellar and the upper half added to in height for dwelling house, and a store house added to the back end. The year of Mr. Enestvedt's death (1887) a new square house thirty-four feet square with eighteen-foot posts was built and the old building torn down, sad to relate, without a single picture of it to show later generations how the home of their first ancestors in the country looked!

Where the forebears of the Enestvedt family in America lived in their cellar less than half a century ago, there now stands an imposing dwelling house into which water is piped from a spring

to furnish power and electric light and then returned to the barn to go through pipes watering all the stock in their mangers. A silo completes the outfit. The old and the new! May the latter fill its place as well as the former did!

Mrs. Anne Enestvedt died of pneumonia, Jan. 1, 1913, and was laid to rest beside her husband in Opdahl church cemetery, where so many of their former friends and neighbors are buried, notably Tollef Enestvedt, Lars Rudi and Erik Nilsen. The youngest of the Enestvedt family, Louise Marie, is buried beside her parents.

Engebret German Enestvedt is living on the "Double Deck" Farm, the Enestvedt homestead, situated in Section 15-16-10 in the fraction township of Sacred Heart, along the Minnesota River valley where he was born and raised in a family of nine children, five boys and four girls. His father, Ole O. Enestvedt, Sr., died when Engebret was five years old. His father bought the lumber and plans for a good large house before he died. The widow, Mrs. Anne Enestvedt, hired men to build the house the following spring of 1885. The house is as good today as when it was built, in fact, it is just as it was built, except for the addition of a kitchen and full basement and the installing of modern equipments such as bathroom, running water system, electric light system and a hot water heating plant. Engebret G. attended the common school and later the School of Agriculture at the University Farm, where he graduated in 1902, after which he worked the home farm for his mother for four years. In 1906 he bought the home farm comprising 270 acres, assuming heavy obligations empty-handed. In 1913 he bought another 80 acres adjoining the old farm on the south, making the farm 350 acres. In the fall of 1906 Mr. Enestvedt took first prize on corn for Minnesota at the "International Corn Show," at Chicago, and since then has specialized in the breeding of a large strain of the Number 13 corn. He has captured almost countless ribbons at the different corn shows and fairs. He also raises white corn to meet the demands for a white seed corn. The improvements on the farm since he bought it are as follows: The low spots of the fields have been tiled, a good private road has been built up the hill to the fields of the "Upper Deck." This road is fenced on both sides and has two cattle ways in the form of cement culverts running under the road. One at the foot of the bluff, the other at the top. The cattle go through these culverts so the road is always open to the fields.

A concrete root cellar has been built to store stock beets and potatoes in. A good double corn crib has been built; a cement 150-ton silo; cement addition to the barn for the young stock; this addition is 20x54 feet and is made of double wall concrete. Both mangers, floor, ceiling and roof are of concrete; the parti-



MR. AND MRS. OLE O. ENESTVEDT SR.
E. G. ENESTVEDT AND FAMILY



tions are detachable. It has large doors to drive through with manure spreader; also a swinging door where cattle and hogs can go through at will. The upstairs is used for baled straw for bedding. The barn proper has also been remodeled with cement floors and mangers, James stanchions and individual watering cups for horses, cows and water cups for each calf pen, for bull and for the young cattle. The cattle soon learn to open the covers and drink of the nice spring water that supplies the cups automatically.

The improvements of the house are a double wall basement, containing a furnace room, a coal room, a seed corn room, holding 500 bushels, a laundry room and dairy and power plant room. The power plant consists of an enclosed water wheel which discharges into the sewer. This water wheel runs a dynamo that charges a set of storage batteries; it also runs a line shaft so that the separator churn, ice cream freezer, washing machine, emery wheel, drill press, seed corn sheller and seed corn grader can be run either by direct power from the water wheel or by electric power or both. The laundry room is also equipped with laundry stove, laundry chute, a three-room stone laundry tub, a cistern lift that automatically feeds the soft water cistern that supplies each room of the laundry tub with hot and cold water, and the sinks and lavatories in the house are also supplied with hot and cold soft water in addition to spring water. The spring water system is very complete. The source of supply is 120 rods up a ravine at a spring. It is 46 feet higher than the level of the water wheel in the basement. A three-inch galvanized pipe connects the two. This same water main supplies the water fountains of the barns, the hydrants for fire protection, the cooling tank and the running spring water system throughout the house.

The heating plant consists of a large hot water furnace and eleven large radiators. The lighting system is also very complete, with electric lights in every room, in every building, including a porch lamp, chandeliers in parlor and dining room and two street lights that light up the yard (50 lights in all). The basement of the dwelling house also contains a small greenhouse under the bay window. It is heated by a ceiling radiator. The outer entrance to the basement is through a concreted tunnel, through the terrace below the house. The floor of the tunnel is level with the floor of the basement and the road past the house to the orchard, so that the apple boxes can be wheeled in for storage, also the milk cans wheeled in and ashes wheeled out. The seed corn is taken into the basement in a ten-bushel truck, then racked up and dried by electric fans. There is a work bench along one side of the seed corn room with anvil, vice, drill press and other tools. The sewer system consists of a six-inch soil pipe leaded together; it empties back into the stream 250 feet down from

the house. The heating, lighting, water and sewer systems of the farm are second to none in the state. Mrs. Enestvedt washes and irons by electricity. Mr. Enestvedt has an orchard of several hundred fruit trees. He has also planted an extra wind break of several hundred evergreens to the northwest of the natural wind break of oak. In addition, he has planted evergreens on both sides of the bottom road, two rods apart, one beta grapevine between each evergreen. These beta grapes along the public road have borne very luxuriantly for several years.

Mr. Enestvedt is a firm believer in diversified farming. He is not afraid of feeding his stock too liberally. He believes that whatever the animals waste is returned to the soil providing the barn yard is taken care of. He grows a large amount of alfalfa and red clover. His hobby is watermelons, yellow corn, pure bred Holstein cattle and red hogs. His general farm work is done by horses, though he has a Rumeley five-plow gas tractor outfit to do plowing and other heavy work. His auto is a Hamiltonian driving team.

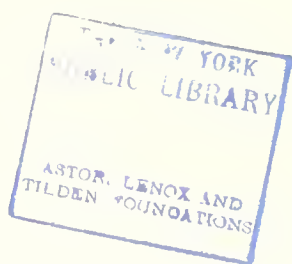
The above improvements were made in the following order: In 1906 built the combination corn crib and wagon shed; also root cellar. In 1907 tiled farm. In 1908 fenced with woven wire some of the fields in the bottom. In 1909 built cement addition to barn. In 1911 built a cement feeding floor for hogs; also cement porches and sidewalks by dwelling house. In 1912 built 150-ton cement silo. In 1913 built cement cattle ways through private road; also built basement under house, put in furnace, water system and sewer system and bathroom in the house. In 1914 put in electric lights. In 1915 put in stalls, stanchions, water cups, floors in barn and tunneled into the basement of the house.

Engebret Enestvedt was born June 14, 1880. On September 5, 1909, he married Clara Ovidia Haug who was born in South Sacred Heart, July 9, 1880, daughter of Johannes and Bertia Haug. She went to the common school and later to the public schools of Sacred Heart and Olivia, after which she engaged in clerking at stores, dressmaking, learning the profession of nursing, studied music in Minneapolis a year, and stayed a few years at home in South Sacred Heart helping to take care of the children left by the death of her oldest sister, Mina. Engebret G. and Clara Enestvedt have three children, viz., Odin Fredolph, born June 21, 1910; Alberta Jorgine, born October 6, 1911; and Johannes Haug, born January 11, 1915.

Theodore Enestvedt, who conducts a successful farm on section 10, South Sacred Heart, was born on the home farm, not far from his present home, June 14, 1875, son of Ole O. Enestvedt, Sr., the pioneer. He attended such schools as the neighborhood afforded and also had the advantages afforded by two winters'



THEODORE ENESTVEDT AND FAMILY



studies in the Lutheran College at Decorah, Iowa. As a young man he visited the home of his ancestors in Norway. Upon his return he settled down to farming on his present place. For a time he rented it, but in 1905 bought 120 acres. To this he has since added another 120 acres so that he now has a splendid place of 240 acres on which he successfully conducts general farming. He has a good home and model buildings and the farm everywhere shows the thrift, industry and ability of its owner. Mr. Enestvedt makes a specialty of Duroc-Jersey swine, Aberdeen-Angus cattle and White Orpington poultry. Another feature of his farm is fifty acres of clover which he raises for hay and seed and pasture..

Mr. Enestvedt was married, Dec. 27, 1903, to Lena Kravik, who was born on the same farm he was, June 5, 1884, daughter of Ole and Joran (Kjontvedt) Kravik. Mr. and Mrs. Enestvedt have seven children: Oliver, born Oct. 22, 1904; Johan, born May 30, 1906; Louis, born Nov. 6, 1907; Marie, born Aug. 3, 1909; Jonette, born July 22, 1911; Anna, born Feb. 9, 1913; and Louise, born Sept. 13, 1914.

Ole Kravik, for some years a resident of Renville county, was born in Nore, Nummedahl, Norway, and there grew to manhood. There also in 1880 he married Joran Kjontvedt. That year they set sail from Norway, landed in America, found their way westward to South Sacred Heart, and here lived until 1887, when they moved to North Dakota and settled on a farm near Minot. In 1892 they returned to South Sacred Heart, but in 1895 once more left here and settled near Madison, this state, where they are now engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Kravik are the parents of thirteen children: Maria, Ole, Lena, Josephine, Hannah, Emil, Clara, Herbran, Carrie, Ella, Charlotte, Inga and Regina. Ole married Elizabeth Hemmingsgaard, lives in Madison, this state, and has three children. Josephine is the wife of Lars Sunde, of Hankinson, North Dakota. Hannah is the wife of Oscar Olson, of Lostine, Oregon, and they have two children. The others are all at home.

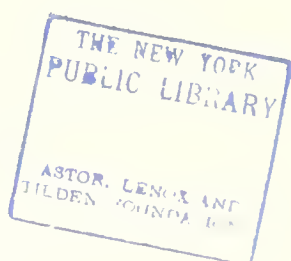
Lars L. Rudi was born Jan. 26, 1827, on the home place of Rudi in Opdal, Numedal, Norway, son of Lars Endreson Rudi and Bergit Sebjornsen, born on the Hvammen place. There was but little schooling to be had in those days, but Lars learned to read and write. After his confirmation he started out as an itinerate peddler in the eastern part of the country, but was not very successful. When he was about twenty-four years of age he happened to attend some revival meetings conducted by adherents of Hans Nilsen Hauge, Ole Naeset, Andres Kjome, both from Rollag, Lars Paulgaarden, Thor Hatrem and others. He was converted and cast his lot in with this group of lay preachers, going to Eker and Drammen, then eastward to Hallingdal, west-

ward to Telemarken and northward along the western part to Lyster in Sogn and many other places. Lars often spoke with great enthusiasm of these journeys and meetings, which he took part in, and told how glad the people were to listen to them. Mr. Rudi was married Jan. 26, 1866, to Vighild Sunde, from Nore, and the same year they immigrated to America, leaving Skien on the steamer "Laurdal" and landed at Quebec, June 3. From there they went by rail to Xenia, Ohio, going from there by boat to Milwaukee. Their first stopping place in this country was with O. E. Lien, Clayton county, Iowa, where they both worked during the harvest season. Here they met and renewed acquaintance with Ole Enestvedt and his family, who had come to Lars Oset a short time before but who also now worked for Ole Lien. In the fall Mr. Rudi and his wife went to Rushford, Minn., and the next spring, 1867, to Renville county, Minn. Here Mr. Rudi took a homestead on the Minnesota river near that of Ole Enestvedt, so the two friends from the old country became neighbors in the northwest and lived there till their death. During the first year there was no other church service than the occasional gatherings on Sundays in the houses. Lars Rudi acted as lay preacher and would lead in prayer, read the sermon from "Luther's Postille," and direct the singing. When later, missionaries N. Brandt, N. Ylvisaker, Thor Hattrem and Th. Johnson came, Mr. Rudi met them and helped them arrange the services and guided them around the settlement. Many a pioneer minister has stayed with him and though the house and rooms were small there was no lack shown in hospitality and comfort. When, in 1868, Rev. Johnson organized Our Saviour's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Renville county, Mr. Rudi was one of the first trustees of the congregation and was appointed to perform the duties of lay preacher, catechise the children, and conduct parochial school, duties which he had already performed. In time the congregation joined the Norwegian Synod of America and J. E. Bergh was called as pastor. Mr. Rudi died in 1913.

Peder O. Kittilsland, one of the prosperous and successful farmers of this county was born on the old farm, North Kittilsland, Nore parish, Numedal, Norway, on February 15, 1850. His parents were Ole T. Kittilsland and wife, Live Pedersdatter Vedhus, and were peasants or farmers. The father died in Norway at the age of 82. After his death the wife came to America, staying with several of her children, and died at her son Torbjorns home in Mellette, S. D., at the ripe old age of 92 years on June 26, 1912. There were seven children of which the subject of this sketch was the second. He attended school for Ole S. Holte, and was confirmed by Pastor Stang, who was so small that he reached only to the shoulders of Peder. The young people of those days always practiced some athletic sports, chief



PEDER O. KITTLESAND AND FAMILY



among these were wrestling of some form and ski running. This was good exercise to harden and develop the muscles. Peder O. stayed at home on his father's farm and helped with the lumbering work in the woods where the land was so broken by rocks and hills that the logs had to be skidded out by one horse and in some places only human beings could go. He had a pair of fills that he coupled to the logs and pulled them out of the woods and once in passing the edge of a precipice the logs gained speed so that only by using his herculean strength he managed to turn the fills on the upper side of a standing tree. This broke the fastening of the fills, and the logs shot past him over the edge into the abyss below. His strength had saved him from a fearful death.

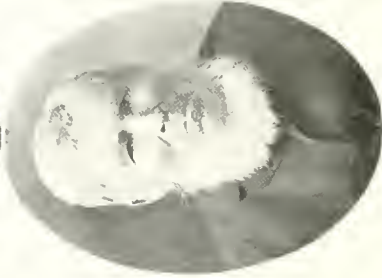
In 1870, at the age of 19, he came to America, the first one of the family. The name of the ship was "Hero," of the Allan line, and he landed at Quebec, and went by railroad to St. Peter where he joined another Norwegian, Peder Osli, who afterward settled in Sacred Heart township, on the west line of the Minnesota river. They walked to Renville county to Ole Enestvedt's place where he made his home for a number of years when not out working. From here he went east again to Olmsted county, where he worked during harvest. In the fall he came back to Renville county and got employment on the Minnesota river in the winter, where the Government was mining and blasting rocks to make the river navigable. A large crew worked at this job. During the spring he worked for Ole Enestvedt, grubbing several acres. In July he went east to St. Peter on railroad work on the track from the last named place to New Ulm. In this camp he was in company with 60 Swedes and they nearly always passed the Sundays wrestling to find out which one was the strongest. He was "boss" in this crowd but in another camp there was a giant, "Frondhjemmer," who was wrestling "boss" from the old country. While serving as soldier over there he had been "boss" wrestler among 1,400 men. He heard that Mr. Kittilsland was "boss" in his camp and came over to tease him for a fight. He started to jostle and snub Mr. Kittilsland and, although he is very peaceable, the crowd challenged and the Trondhjemmer teased him until they finally got them together. They kept on a good half hour, kicking up the earth like a pair of steers, when Mr. Kittilsland finally got the giant and threw him down. But the rascal tried to take hold of his legs and tip him too, and this got Mr. Kittilsland angry so that he grabbed the giant around the waist with his head under his chest and flopped him over in the air where he went around several times before he lost his speed. He did not come back as he was sick for three days and afterwards left the camp.

About Christmas time he came back to Enestvedt's when he

started to school again the Kohlen schoolhouse with G. P. Greene for teacher. The next spring again found him at work on the railroad from New Ulm to Watertown. The land from Sleepy Eye and westward was then unsettled and the Indians were riding in flocks on their hunting grounds. When the railroad work closed in November there came up a snow storm which lasted for three days when they were snowed in in their tents. On the fourth day they managed to dig the horses out of their sheds and everything else was drifted down, so that when they went from there the camp looked like a huge snowdrift with holes in it where horses and men had been dug out. Toward evening the first day of their trip back, they came to Gary where there was one store, and put up their tents. They had their blankets wrapped around them day and night for three days and three nights as they were provided with too little clothing. The railroad company had sent out six trains to take their worn-out crew back again and when they had marched three days through the snowdrifts and bitter cold weather, they met these trains at Marshall, Minn. They hoped to reach New Ulm the next evening, but the storm started up again and although 60 men shoveled snow every time the trains were stalled, it took them all day and the following night and until 12 o'clock next day to cover the 60 miles to New Ulm. There were 1,400 men on these six trains, and they had to remain standing, packed together, without food or rest on the whole trip.

Mr. Kittilsland now returned to Renville county and bought a homestead right of 80 acres and went to school in the winter and after that he worked at common farm work a couple of summers. He made a half log, half earth cellar and hired a breaking team even though it was grasshopper time. Afterwards he bought an ox team and a cow. On Dec. 28, 1876, he was married to Nellie (Gunild) Enestvedt, who had taught school for a number of years and had also homesteaded 80 acres adjoining Kittilsland's land. He now moved into his cellar and began proving up his land. After a time he built a log house on his wife's land and lived there about eight years. Then he purchased 80 acres of his brother-in-law, Tollef Enestvedt, and moved to his house in the timber on the bluff, where they have since resided, the old gentleman staying with them till the time of his death a few years ago. His old house is still standing. In 1898 Mr. Kittilsland built a modern dwelling house and in 1905 built a round barn, the only one of its kind in this part of the country, with round hay carrier and litter carrier. It is 66 feet in diameter and about 200 feet in circumference. During these years of farming Mr. Kittilsland has been very prosperous and owns 260 acres of land in the township, with perhaps some money laid by for a rainy day. Besides holding different town offices he has been a





MR. AND MRS. HALVOR MUTTA



H. H. SAGNES AND FAMILY

trusted member of Opdal Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, having served as trustee for Opdal congregation and helping build their nice church and chapel. Mr. and Mrs. Kittilsland have one son, Olaf John K., born Dec. 19, 1877, who stays at home with his parents. Mr. Kittilsland has five brothers and sisters, viz., Ole Kittilsland, single, Belview, Minn.; Johanne Storli, Nore, Numedal, Norway; Knut Kittilsland, Gertrude Tolstad and Gunder Kittilsland, Mollette, Spenk county, South Dakota. They are all farmers and all belong to the Lutheran church.

Mathias Johnson, a pioneer of Renville county, now living at Franklin, was born in Norway, Nov. 26, 1845, son of Mathias Johnson and his wife, Marie K. Johnson, natives of Finland. His father was born in Finland and came to St. Peter, Minn., in 1864, and then homesteaded 160 acres of land in section 5, Camp township, where he lived until his death in 1888 at the age of seventy-two. His wife died in 1890 at the age of sixty-four. Mathias Johnson, Jr., enlisted in Company A, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in April, 1865, and was discharged in August, 1865. He homesteaded 160 acres of land in section 20, Camp township, where he remained until 1905, with the exception of five years which were spent at Forest City, California, 1875-1880, working in the gold mines. In 1905 he moved to Franklin where he has erected a nice home and expects to spend the remainder of his days.

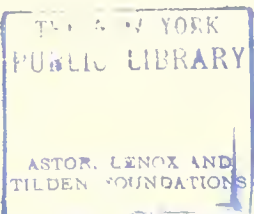
Hans H. Sagnes (Sensdeby), one of the pioneer Scandinavians of the western part of Renville county, was born in Norway, Nov. 22, 1826, of a long line of Norwegian ancestry. There he attended the parish schools, grew to manhood, and engaged in the timber and lumber business until 1867, when he brought his wife and four children to America, and located in Waseca county, Minnesota. There for a year he worked out as a laborer on various farms in the neighborhood. In 1868 he started overland for Renville county, bringing his family and his household goods on an old ox-cart, drawn by a yoke of three-year-old steers. People of the present day can hardly picture this trip through the wilderness. Trails were few, the way was rough, there were many swamps, and in addition to these difficulties there were many real dangers. They took a homestead of 80 acres in section 22, Hawk Creek township, and a pre-emption claim of eighty acres in the same section. This was the only family in that neighborhood that secured more than eighty acres until the railroad land came into the market, Mr. Sagnes being shrewd enough to take advantage of both the homestead and pre-emption laws. With their steers and their two cows the Sagnes family started farming. For a time they lived in their covered wagon, then they moved into a dugout. The first spring one of their steers died, and this was a

serious handicap in breaking their land. But a neighbor, Ole Skalback by name, had two yoke of oxen, and he broke a few acres for them. Practically all this breaking they planted to potatoes. Consequently about all they lived on during the first winter was the potatoes they raised and the milk from their cows. The nearest market for the Hawk Creek settlers at that time was at New Ulm and there they had to drive for supplies. Another point was New London, to which point they also occasionally made trips. For three years the family lived in the original dugout. Then they constructed a larger dug-out, making the sides of logs, and the gable roof of rails covered with straw and sod. In this structure they lived for several years. Their next home was a log house, in which the minister, the Rev. John Bergh, lived with them for some two years. Finally they erected one of the first frame houses in the township, which is now a part of the present home. The lumber for this early frame house was hauled by ox team from Willmar. The family experienced all the rigors of pioneer life. The winters were cold, the mosquitoes were plentiful, blackbirds were a menace to the crops, food was scarce, prairie fires came, and the pioneers had to toil early and late to keep their families from starvation. For a time prosperity was delayed by the grasshoppers, and even after they were gone, the wheat crop was poor for several years. But as the years passed, the hardships diminished and success came in abundant measure. To the 160 acres, eighty acres of railroad land was added. Land was broken a little at a time, fences were constructed, buildings were erected as necessary, farm equipment was purchased, and in time the farm became a highly improved and modern place in every particular. Hans H. Sagnes became one of the leading men of the community. He was highly esteemed, his judgment was always good, and his advice was sought by his neighbors on many subjects. He believed in progress and in education, and took his part worthily in the upbuilding of the community. He was one of the prime movers in the establishment of Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran church of the Norwegian Synod. He never aspired to public office, though he was often urged to serve in township positions. In 1890 he retired from farm work and moved to the village of Sacred Heart where he purchased a pleasant home in which he lived the remainder of his days. His death, October 13, 1911, was sincerely mourned throughout the entire community and his remains were followed to their last resting place by a large concourse of sorrowing mourners. Mr. Sagnes was married in 1849 in Norway to Bertha Sagnes, born Nov. 22, 1824. Mrs. Sagnes was a God-fearing woman, who proved a faithful hard-working wife and a loyal mother. Amid the discomforts and privations of pioneer life she worked by her husband's side and though her days were

filled with busy cares, found the time to instill in her children the staunch principles which she had inherited from her sturdy ancestors. After a useful life, well spent she died October 22, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Sagnes were the parents of four children, all born in Norway. Hans was born October 30, 1850, and now resides at Granite Falls, Minn. Elisa Maria was born April 24, 1854, and married Ole H. Agre, of Sacred Heart township. Dena was born May 24, 1862, and is now Mrs. A. H. Anderson, of Sacred Heart township. John H. was born April 17, 1866, and is now a prominent farmer of Hawk Creek township. When Hans H. Sagnes was a boy he bore the name of Hans H. Sensdeby, from the estate upon which he resided. But when he moved to the vicinity of Sagnes, where his wife was born, he took that name, and was ever thereafter known as Hans H. Sagnes. In the Sagnes family there are many interesting stories that will be treasured for generations to come regarding the experiences of the father and others in the early days. Two especially interesting ones are told regarding trips to New London and to Redwood Falls in the pioneer times. Late in November, 1869, Hans H. Sagnes and Andrew Tomte, a neighbor, started for New London, north of Willmar, with a load of wheat to be ground in the mill there. The trail was rough, and though they left their home in Hawk Creek at three o'clock in the morning, it was late at night when they were still only a short distance north of Willmar. In order that the oxen might eat, they stopped for a while. While they were thus lingering a terrific rain and thunder storm broke upon them, and the two men rolled up in their blankets under the wagon box and went to sleep. While they were sleeping the rain turned to sleet, the weather grew suddenly cold, and covered the ground with a glare of ice. When they awoke, it was found that Tomte's long hair was frozen solid to the ground, and it took Sagnes quite a while to cut him loose with a hatchet. People who remember Mr. Sagnes will never forget the gusto with which he told this amusing tale and his laugh as he told of the difficulties he encountered in trying to avoid hitting Tomte's head with the hatchet while trying to sever the hair. In 1874 Hans H. Sagnes, with his wife and four children, and a friend, Halsten Otos, started with an ox team for Redwood Falls to get a family photograph taken. In going over they crossed the river ford in safety, but upon their return trip the passage was not so easy. They planned to make the crossing at a ford near the home of Gunhild Rude, where they had crossed many times before, and with this object in view they followed along the west bank of the river. When they reached the spot the river was unusually high, and when they got in the middle of the river the water was so deep that the wagon box began to float from the wagon frame. It looked for a moment as though the wagon box was to float

down the river, in which case it seemed sure that some if not all of the party would be drowned in the raging torrent. But Mr. Sagnes was equal to the emergency. Groping with his feet down under the water he fastened his legs in a firm lock around the wagon tongue, and by holding his body firmly on the edge of the seat he kept the wagon box on the frame by sheer strength of will and muscle. Oxen, wagon and all were carried down the stream, but finally the deep water was passed. Even then the danger was not over, for the banks were too steep to make a landing. So the oxen had to be turned up the river, and went for many rods with the water nearly up to the wagon box, before safety was finally reached. Wet, cold, excited, there was still a long trip ahead of the family before they reached their home. But the picture came out clearly and is still preserved in the family as a precious heirloom, its value and interest increased by the story which is connected with its taking.

Hans H. Sagnes, Jr., for many years a leading farmer of Renville county, now living in retirement at Granite Falls, was born in Totan, Norway, Oct. 30, 1850, son of Hans H. and Bertha Marie (Sagnes) Sagnes, the pioneers. He received his education in Norway, came with his parents to America in 1867 and to Renville county in 1868. He remained with his parents until twenty-one years of age, and then took a homestead of eighty acres in section 18, Ericsen township. The tract was at that time in the midst of a wild prairie. He put up a small log shack for himself and a straw shed for his animals, and started breaking the land preparatory to farming. He started with an ox team and with but meagre equipment, and experienced all the hardships and privations of pioneer life. He took a special interest in the planting of trees, setting out something like six acres all together. These trees still stand as a monument to his faith in the future. It is interesting to note that in 1875, he set out three acres of trees, between Christmas and New Years day. Although this was a most unusual time of the year to be setting out trees, the grove flourished, and is now a sturdy collection of noble trees. As the years passed, Mr. Sagnes achieved success. He added to his original farm until he owned 325 acres, and in addition bought another farm of 140 acres in sections 17 and 20 in the same township. His own farm he developed into one of the best in the county. In 1889 he erected a slightly frame house, and from time to time he constructed the necessary outbuildings. In 1910 he erected one of the best barns in his community. It is 48 by 65 feet, modern and sanitary in every respect. In 1912 he built a panel silo, with a capacity of ninety tons. He fenced and equipped the farm in good shape, and by working early and late won for himself a high place in the regard of his fellow citizens. He kept full-bred sires, and made a specialty of breed-





JOHN H. SAGNES AND FAMILY

ing high grade stock. He was known for his good judgment, and his opinions on various subjects were eagerly sought by his neighbors. He served as supervisor several terms, and was road overseer for a considerable period. He was also a member of the school board of district 98 for many years, both as director and treasurer. In addition to bringing his original farm to so high a degree of development he also improved his other farm by building a silo and making general developments. In the fall of 1914 after a busy life of hard work he rented his home farm to his sons, and moved to Granite Falls, where he erected a splendid bungalow in which he and his wife are spending the afternoon of life surrounded by the comforts they so richly deserve and made happy by the esteem in which they are held by neighbors and friends. Mr. Sagnes was married March 28, 1875, to Maria Mutta, born in Norway, Oct. 26, 1856, daughter of Halvor Mutta, and this union has been blessed with eleven children: Helmer, Anna Helen, John H., Bertha Marie, Gina Matilda, Lena Helmina, Melvin H., Bert H., Hans N., Halvor H. and Edwin H. Helmer was born Sept. 6, 1876, farms in Erieson township, married Hilda Walstad, and has two children, Ella and Thelma. Anna Helen was born May 31, 1878, married Ole H. Engelsgaard, of Fosston, Minn., and has six children: Henry M., Rikka, Arthur, Hazel, Bertha and Ella. John H. was born Aug. 18, 1880, lives on the old homestead, and married Julia Tostenson. Bertha Marie was born Sept. 3, 1882, married C. M. Nelson, of Granite Falls, and has two children, Morris and Herbert. Gina Matilda was born Nov. 23, 1884, married Edward Thompson, of Sacred Heart and they have four children, Harvey, Jerome, Elsie and Daniel. Lena Helmina was born July 8, 1887, married Henry Tostenson, of Erieson township, and has one child, Marcella. Melvin H. was born Aug. 5, 1889, married Ida Faglie, and farms in Erieson township. Bert H., born Oct. 31, 1891, is at home. Hans N. was born Jan. 4, 1894, and lives on the home farm. Halvor H. was born Jan. 7, 1896, and lives on the home farm. Edwin H. was born June 19, 1901, and lives with his parents.

John H. Sagnes, a prosperous farmer of Hawk Creek township, was born in Norway, April 17, 1866, son of Hans H. and Bertha (Sagnes) Sagnes, who brought him to America in 1867 and to Hawk Creek township in 1868. He attended the district schools of his neighborhood, completing his education with a course in the Willmar Seminary. With his father he farmed until 1887, when he rented the home farm, and started business on his own responsibility. In 1892 he purchased the place. To it he later added eighty acres which he purchased from Ole Lenby, a pioneer, in section 22, thus making him in all a splendid farm of 320 acres. Starting with the improvements that his father had made, he has made wonderful progress in its development.



JOHN H. SAGNES AND FAMILY

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John H. Sagnes, a prosperous farmer of Hawk Creek township, was born in Norway, April 17, 1866, son of Hans H. and Bertha (Sagnes) Sagnes, who brought him to America in 1867 and to Hawk Creek township in 1868. He attended the district schools of his neighborhood, completing his education with a course in the Willmar Seminary. With his father he farmed until 1887, when he rented the home farm, and started business on his own responsibility. In 1892 he purchased the place. To it he later added eighty acres which he purchased from Ole Lenby, a pioneer, in section 22, thus making him in all a splendid farm of 320 acres. Starting with the improvements that his father had made, he has made wonderful progress in its development.

He has remodeled the home into a modern residence replete with comforts and conveniences, he has built a model barn, he has erected a silo, he has built numerous outbuildings, and he has shown his modern spirit prominently in the fencing he has done, having one of the best fenced farms in the neighborhood. His tools, implements and machinery are also of the best. In all he has 275 acres under cultivation. He carries on general diversified farming along the latest approved methods, and his place shows thrift and prosperity in every way. For many years Mr. Sagnes has been extensively engaged in live stock dealing, buying, feeding and shipping to the markets. Part of the time he is on the road for a commission firm in South St. Paul. His son Hans Albert, is associated with him in conducting the farm, and a specialty is made of Aberdeen-Angus cattle, both Mr. Sagnes and his son being good buyers as well as good judges of cattle. Mr. Sagnes is one of the leading men of the community, and is a substantial, well-to-do member of the community. He has served for several years on the town board both as chairman and as supervisor, and for six years he was assessor. He has also done good service as a member of the school board. He is president and stockholder of the Sacred Heart Automobile Co. Mr. Sagnes has made one venture in real estate dealing. In 1898 he bought a farm of 80 acres from Andrew Hegna, of Hawk Creek township. This place he conducted in connection with his own for three years, then selling out at a good profit.

Mr. Sagnes was married May 21, 1890, to Matilda Carolina Tolander, born in Renville county, Sept. 27, 1870, daughter of Andrew and Maria Christina (Gustafson) Tolander, and this union has been blessed with one child, Hans Albert, born March 21, 1891, now in partnership with his father on the Sagnes farm. He married Hulda Christopher, and they have two children, Alvin and Jerome. The family faith is that of the Our Saviour's Church of Sacred Heart, of which John H. Sagnes has been a trustee.

Andrew Tolander, a pioneer, was born in Sweden, was there reared, and there married Maria Christina Gustafson. They came to America in 1867 to St. Peter, in this state. In 1869 they came to Hawk Creek, this county, and located on an eighty-acre homestead in section 26. Like so many of the pioneers, they first lived in a dugout and then built a log cabin in which they lived until 1888, when they built a frame house. They went through all the privations of pioneer life and added to the place until they owned 200 acres, all which they developed into a splendid farm. Andrew Tolander died in the old log cabin in 1887. His widow is still living on the old farm at the age of eighty years. Mr. and Mrs. Tolander had seven children. John lives on the old home farm and looks after the wants of his

mother. Matilda Carolina is now Mrs. John H. Sagnes, of Hawk Creek township. Christina is the wife of John Lund, who owns and conducts the old Tolander homestead. Emma married Albert Noland. She died two years after her marriage. Albertina, and two Alfreds are dead.

Halvor Mutta, a pioneer, was born in Norway, Oct. 15, 1825, and was there married to Anna Larshus, who was born in that country, Sept. 15, 1830. They came to America in 1867 and after living a year in Freeborn county, this state, came to Renville county, in 1868, and took a homestead in section 22, Hawk Creek township. They lived for a while in a dugout but later erected a log cabin. They started farming with a yoke of oxen, and went through all the experiences of pioneer life. The nearest market was at New Ulm and there they had to go for all their supplies. They broke the land, set out a fine grove, and with the addition of sixty acres, developed a splendid farm. As the time passed they framed up their log cabin, and sided it, put on a summer kitchen, and made other improvements. They also erected other good buildings. In 1893 they sold the farm and moved to Sacred Heart village, where they lived a retired life. Mr. Mutta dying Oct. 22, 1914, and his wife Nov. 7, 1915. They were a fine old family and one of the first in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Mutta had eleven children. Of these seven are alive: Bndbjor, Marie, Kari, Hilda, Berte, Paulina and Helen. Gudbjor, better known as Julia, was born April 11, 1853, married Joseph Schafer, this being the first marriage in Hawk Creek township. Marie was born Oct. 26, 1856, and married Hans H. Sagnes, Jr., of Granite Falls. Kari was born Sept. 3, 1859, and married Elick Husten, of Granite Falls. Hilda was born Oct. 19, 1863, married Ole Ness, and lives in Sacred Heart township. Berte was born Jan. 27, 1866. Paulina was born March 18, 1869, being the first child in the family born in America. She is now Mrs. Thomas McDonough, of Great Falls, Montana. Helen was born March 22, 1873, married D. O. Wentworth, of Great Falls, Montana, and has two children, Gerald and Woodrow Wilson.

Ole O. Melsness, one of the early pioneers of Renville county, was born in Norway Sept. 15, 1832, only child of Ole O. and Martha (Peterson) farmers, who lived and died in Norway. He came to America with his wife and two children in 1866, landing at Quebec, and then coming to Minnesota, where he stayed a year working for the farmers. In 1867 he moved to Renville county and located on section 31 where he secured a homestead of 160 acres of wild prairie and brush land. He built a log house 16 by 17 which is still standing and made a sod roof and used the ground as a floor. He began with an ox team and two cows. The nearest market was Willmar. He suffered much loss on account of the storms, but finally prospered and added more

land to his farm until now he has 620 acres of land. He built up a fine place and has erected good buildings.

He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and has been its secretary for fifteen years and was one of the organizers of this church. He has served as township supervisor for several years and also as assessor. For twenty-seven years he has been a school trustee of his district. Mr. Melsness was married in 1863 to Martha Mangerud, who was born September 12, 1834, in Norway, daughter of Martin Mangerud. She died in 1914. There were eight children born in this marriage: Martin, Peter O., Otto, Toswold, Mina, Ole (deceased), Marie (deceased), and Knudt (deceased).

Peter O. Melsness, was born on the homestead of his father, Ole O. Melsness, in Sacred Heart township, May 11, 1872. He gained his education in the country log school house, and remained on his father's farm until 1897 when he was married. Then he located on his present place in section 31, south Sacred Heart on a tract of 320 acres. He is a prosperous farmer and raises good stock. He is a member of the Swinebreeders' Association and a stockholder in the Sacred Heart Consolidated Telephone Company and the Sacred Heart Farmers' Elevator Company. He has served as supervisor for the township and also as assessor. For nine years he was a member of the school board.

Mr. Melsness was married June 9, 1897, to Minnie Rice, born October 21, 1875, daughter of August Rice, and early pioneer of Renville county. Mr. and Mrs. Melsness have had five children: Melvina, born April 3, 1898; Albert, born October 8, 1899; Myrtle, born October 6, 1901 and died December 5, 1905; George, born July 14, 1903; and Roy, born May 30, 1908. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Nels Johnson Bakke, one of the honored and sturdy pioneers of Renville county, was born in Vermland, Sweden, March 1, 1826, the son of John and Maria Birkebakken. He spent his boyhood in his native place and as a young man moved to Veglid, Numedal, Norway. There he worked on the government roads, in the pine woods and on various farms. He also did considerable horse trading. It was in Norway that he met and in 1860 wed Christie Danielsrud, who was born in Veglid, Numedal, Norway, May 23, 1834, daughter of Sevre and Caro Danielsrud. In Norway they had two children: John and Maria. With these two children, they set out in the spring of 1867 for the boundless opportunities of the new world. With them were many of their friends and neighbors. In their immediate party were Ole P. Sheggeby and Ole Holtan and families, who afterward settled in Renville county. The trip was made aboard the wooden sailing vessel, the "Amalia" in charge of Captain Peterson.



MR. AND MRS. NELS BAKKE
JOHN BAKKE AND FAMILY



After a long voyage of seven weeks the boat reached Quebec, and the pioneers made the trip by way of the Great Lakes to Wisconsin. The Sheggeby and Holtan families located first in Edgerton, Wisconsin, and then in Stoughton, in the same state, and in 1868 came to Renville county. But the Bakke family kept on to Clayton county, Iowa, and there lived for two years. There the daughter, Maria, died. There also a son, Erik, was born. In the spring of 1869 the family set out for Renville county. The wife and the two sons were left at St. Peter while the father came to this county and took a claim in section 10. Then he went back to St. Peter after the family. From St. Peter, which point they had reached by an overland journey, they took a steamboat on the Minnesota River to a point between Redwood Falls and Beaver Falls. After a few days spent at Beaver Falls they were met by Ole P. Sheggeby, and by him taken with **his oxen to Hawk Creek**. For a time they lived in a cabin on the claim of Ole Evanson Limbo. In the fall they moved into a dug-out on their own claim. With this beginning they became prosperous farmers. Gradually buildings were erected, the farm was developed, 80 acres of railroad land were added to the original tract, and the comforts of a thickly settled community took the place of the privations and crudities of pioneer days. Mr. Bakke was a devout member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and was ever active in its cause. He helped to erect the first church of that denomination built in this locality, and remained a devoted Christian until his death, March 18, 1914. Mrs. Bakke is still living and makes her home with her son, John Bakke, a prominent farmer of Hawk Creek township, who now lives on the old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Bakke had six children. John is appropriately mentioned elsewhere. Maria, as already noted, died in Iowa. Erick farmed with his father all his life and died April 3, 1899. Frederick farms in Chippewa county, not far from Granite Falls. Christina married Olaus Lende, who operates a machine shop and garage in Granite Falls. Anna married Jens L. Romo, a successful farmer of Wang township.

John Bakke, a progressive farmer of Hawk Creek township, was born in Veglid, Numedal, Norway, October 17, 1861, son of Nels Johnson and Christie (Danielsrud) Bakke, the pioneers. He was brought to America in 1867, lived with his parents in Clayton county, Iowa, for two years, and in 1869 was by them brought to Hawk Creek township. Here he grew to manhood, attending the district schools, and helping his parents with the farm work. In 1881 he made his first venture in life by going to the Wisconsin pine forests where he worked in the pinery and on the river drive. In the summer of 1882 he went to Hillsboro, North Dakota, then Dakota territory and worked on the Grandin farm near that place. In the winter of 1882-83 he again worked in the

Wisconsin forests. In the summer of 1883 he joined the W. W. Cole circus and with that aggregation toured the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and portions of Canada. He left the circus in Kansas City, Missouri, where he spent two winters, being in Omaha, Nebraska, the intervening summer. During this period he was engaged in railroad work. In 1885 he again went to the Grandin farm in North Dakota, and became foreman of one of the sections of that vast farm. There he remained for some years, spending some of his winters, however, in the Wisconsin woods. In the fall of 1897 he started for the Pacific coast. After spending a short time in Montana he went on to Washington, where he helped cut the three-mile tunnel of the Great Northern railroad through the Cascade mountains. At Tacoma, Washington, July 2, 1898, he enrolled with the intention of joining a Tacoma company for service in the Spanish-American war. He passed the examinations and went with the company to Seattle. It was found, however, that there were too many men to make a full company and he was one of those left out when the company went into service. The company with Mr. Bakke as a member, was in Seattle, when on July 4, 1898, the news came of Sampson's great naval victory, and Mr. Bakke will never forget the enthusiasm that prevailed there. After this, Mr. Bakke engaged in threshing in Washington and Idaho. The next winter he spent in Portland, Oregon, and the next summer took up threshing again. In the fall of 1899 he was called home by the death of his brother Erik. Since then he has successfully farmed in Hawk Creek township. He owns the old homestead and in addition to this farms an eighty owned by his mother, who makes her home with him. He is one of the progressive men of the township, ready to take his part in everything that has for its object the upbuilding and betterment of the community. As member and chairman of the town board and as director of the school board he has done efficient work for progress and education. He is also deeply interested in the Old Settlers' Association, of which he is one of the vice-presidents. John Bakke was married October 17, 1901, to Laura Sophia Lindquist, who was born in Dalsland, Sweden, February 18, 1869, daughter of Elias M. and Sarah Jonasdaughter Lindquist. This union has been blessed with seven children: Christine Evelyn, born August 4, 1902; Norman Lindquist, born December 5, 1903; Erie Daniel, born May 3, 1905; Alice Sophie, born October 27, 1906, died November 26, 1906; Sarah Alice, born February 5, 1908; Grace Marie, born June 16, 1909; and John Laurence, born June 23, 1911.

Elias M. Lindquist, a pioneer, was born in Dalsland, Sweden, January 3, 1841, there grew to manhood and married Sarah Jonasdaughter who was born September 9, 1842. He came to the

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E. J. WILSON AND FAMILY

United States in 1869, and lived for a short time in Wisconsin, then locating in Minnesota and working on farms near St. Peter. In 1870 he was joined by his wife and his daughter, Laura. That year he secured the rights of Christopher Anderson Setra to a homestead of eighty acres in section 6 Hawk Creek township. He perfected the title to this property and there farmed for many years. Like the other pioneers they lived first in a dugout and later in a more pretensions dwelling. They underwent all the privations of pioneer life and in time were enabled to see all their children well established in life.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindquist have had eight children: Laura, Josephine, John, Evelina (deceased), Mary, Anna (deceased), Ida and Samuel.

Erven J. Wilson, the Duroc-Jersey swine enthusiast, is one of the leading men in his line in the whole state, and his reputation as a breeder is nation-wide. Although he is comparatively a new comer in Renville county, he has already become one of the most prominent citizens in the township, has been elected to honorable and responsible office, and has done much to spread the fame of this part of the state as an ideal agricultural region. He was born in Ironton, Lawrence county, Ohio, February 13, 1884, son of Rev. Samuel and Sarah (Bruce) Wilson, and descended from sturdy Scotch ancestry. He attended the public schools of his native town as a boy, and at the age of fifteen went to Ransom, La Salle county, Illinois, where he completed his education. For a time he was employed by various farmers in La Salle county, and after a while he began renting farms. During this time he made a thorough study of swine breeding, and became convinced of the merits of the Duroc-Jersey variety. So in the spring of 1911, with a capital of but \$1,600 he came to Renville county, purchased a farm of 160 acres in section 27, Crooks township, and started the venture which has since brought him fame and profit. He has made many improvements on the buildings and land. Among other things may be mentioned the fact that he has erected over 700 feet of woven wire fencing, extensively tiled the farm, and at a cost of over \$2,000 erected a swine house constructed along the most modern lines and a model in every particular. Thorough student of his business as he is, Mr. Wilson's success has been phenomenal. He breeds from 150 to 200 registered pure blooded Duroc-Jerseys each year, exclusively for breeding purposes. His sales, which he holds in January and October of each year, have attracted nation-wide attention and drawn buyers from many states. Perhaps one of the most notable of these sales was the one he held January 7, 1915. For this sale he issued a splendid catalogue which was circulated throughout the country and did much to add to Renville county's fame. The forty-four hogs for sale were de-

scribed in the catalogue in detail, with full pedigrees, while the sires of the herds were given elaborate write-ups. Purchasers flocked to the farm in large numbers, and were entertained both there and at a Renville hotel, at Mr. Wilson's expense. The hogs brought a total of \$4,318.16, an average of \$98.14 and the bidding was spirited. At one time Mr. Wilson was the owner of the undefeated grand champion herd boar, Big Wonder 125,591, which he purchased for \$1,500 and later sold at the same price. In addition to his busy farm duties, Mr. Wilson has found time to serve as town clerk of Crooks township, a position he is still most admirably filling. He is a member of Ransom Lodge, No. 741, I. O. O. F., of Ransom, Illinois. Mr. Wilson is a splendid type of the modern farmer, young, energetic, hard-working, a deep thinker, a wide reader, a pleasant conversationalist and a keen business man. Mr. Wilson was married at Ransom, Illinois, to Mary A. Weber, born near that city, February 17, 1885. They have two children, Verle W., born October 14, 1907, and Dorris L., born January 18, 1913. The Rev. Samuel Wilson is a Baptist clergyman in Ironton, Lawrence county, Ohio. By his wife, Sarah Bruce, he has four children: Clarence is a contractor and builder at Poughkeepsie, New York; Victor is a lumberman at Raymond, Washington; Oscar owns an omnibus and dray line at West Point, New York. Erven J. is a swine breeder in Renville county. Two children, Julia and Josie and two unnamed children died in infancy. By his present wife, Luvina Rice, the Reverend Wilson has one daughter, Lennie, who resides with her parents.

Michael Larson, early settler, was born in Norway, March 2, 1837, and on April 12, 1869, married Anna Hendrickson, who was born September 10, 1846. This young couple set sail a few days after their marriage and after a voyage of six weeks landed at Quebec. From there they reached St. Peter in this state, where they visited a week before setting out for Wang township, where they secured a homestead in section 34. Four years later they sold out and went back to Norway. But some six months later they came back to Wang township, and bought school land in section 36. Here, as on the previous homestead, they constructed a sod house, in which they lived until prosperity enabled them to construct better habitations for themselves and stock. They went through all the privations of pioneer life. Their mill was at New London. Mr. Larson often walked to the store of Louis Robert (pronounced Robaire or Ruber) near the Minnesota in the southern part of Hawk Creek township. He was one of the original members of the Hawk Creek congregation and a member of the building committee when the church was erected. After a long and useful life he died in 1892. His widow is still living on the home place. In their family there were five chil-

dren: Henry, Olaf, Laura, Louis and Oline. Henry, Olaf and Louis are dead.

John J. Skauge, an energetic and prosperous farmer of Wang township, was born in Norway, August 2, 1868, son of Johan Johnson Skauge and of his good wife, Sigri Olsdatter, who spent the span of their years in Norway. The other children in the family were Randi, Ole, Marit, Johannah, and Berit. Of this family, John J. was the only one who came to America. He landed at New York, August 11, 1893, and three days later reached Minneapolis. For several reasons he alternated working in the saw-mills of Minneapolis and in the pine forests of the northern part of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Then he devoted several years to house building in Minneapolis, in the meantime working in the same line for a year in Charles City, Iowa. It was in 1903 that he decided to settle down on a farm, the life to which he had been reared in the old country. Accordingly he came to Wang township, and located on 140 acres in section 36, which he purchased the following year. Here he successfully carries on general farming and makes a specialty of raising good grade stock. He has made many improvements on his farm and has reason to be proud of its well-developed condition. Mr. Skauge has taken an active part in the affairs of the community. He is director of his school district, as well as a director in the Hawk Creek Farmers Telephone Co., and the Sacred Heart Stock Shipping Association, and a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Co. of Sacred Heart. Mr. Skauge was married December 20, 1903, to Laura Larson, who was born and reared on their present farm, October 15, 1878, daughter of Michael and Anna (Hendrickson) Larson, the pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Skauge have four children: Martin Julian, Lewis Jerome, Silas Archer and Edna Lenora, all at home.

Torger Olson Skrukrud, one of the early pioneers of the Hawk Creek valley, was born in Norway, December 9, 1842, and at the age of sixteen came to Fillmore county, this state, where he joined his brothers, Ole and Knute, who had preceded him. For several years he was there employed as a farm hand. In 1868 he drove an ox team overland to Renville county, and selected a quarter section in section 5, Hawk Creek, buying eighty acres from Christina Olson. He broke a few acres, erected a log cabin, and then drove back to Fillmore county. In June 15, 1869, he again drove his oxen, bringing his family, and taking up his home in his cabin. He went through all the privations and hardships of pioneer life, though he was somewhat better off than some of the settlers on the prairie, for there was plenty of timber on his claim along the creek. The nearest markets were at New Ulm, New London and Willmar, and the trips to those places were long and tedious. There were few settlers in the country.

and there were many drawback to farming. The grasshoppers and the hail came, and the winters were long and cold. But with courage he worked early and late and developed a splendid farm. The log house was rebuilt into a sightly frame house. Barns and outbuildings were erected, and the place developed into a modern and successful farm. The situation is picturesque and comfortable, the creek adding much to the appearance of the surroundings. Mr. Skrukrud became a prominent man in the community, and while he did not seek public office, his opinion was highly valued by his friends, and his standing was very high. In 1905, Mr. Skrukrud retired from farm life and moved to Granite Falls, where he purchased a pretty home overlooking the Minnesota River, where he lived in comfort until his death. April 23, 1913. Mr. Skrukrud was married in Fillmore county, this state, December, 1866, to Anna Ingebretson, who was born in Norway, October 19, 1843, and came to America the year before her future husband. She now makes her home in Granite Falls. Mr. and Mrs. Skrukrud had eleven children, of whom eight are living. They are: Ellen, Ole, Engebret, Mathias T., Albert, Carl, Anna and Mabel, living; and Mary, and two unnamed infants, deceased. Ellen was born April 10, 1867, and married John Tandberg, of Canada. Ole was born November 2, 1868, and lives in Montana. Engebret was born September 13, 1872, and is a hardware merchant of Maynard, Minnesota. He married Christine Lerohl. Mathias T. was born December 29, 1874. Albert was born February 18, 1877, and is a merchant in Canada. He married Clara Braum. Carl was born June 30, 1880, and farms in Wang township. He married Sophia Berge. Anna, born October 16, 1884, and Mabel, born January 6, 1887, both live at home.

Mathias T. Skrukrud, a progressive farmer of Hawk Creek township, was born December 29, 1874, son of Torger O. and Anna Brettingen, on the sightly farm in section 5, Hawk Creek township, where he still resides. As a boy he played on the historic banks of Hawk creek, attended the neighborhood schools, and learned farming from his father, taking his part in the development of the home place. His education was completed with a year's course at Decorah College, at Decorah, Iowa. For three years he was second miller under his brother in the Maynard Flour Mill. With these exceptions he remained on the home farm until 1905, when he went into Clearwater county, this state, where he purchased a farm, on which he remained for five years. Then he returned to the home farm, where he has since been actively identified with the agricultural pursuits of Renville county. He has now sold his farm in Clearwater county and devoted his attention entirely to his place in Hawk Creek. He has continued the improvements started by his father, has repaired the buildings, painted the house, added porches, and

made other developments in the way of fencing, and the purchase of stock, equipment and tools. The place shows his thrift and prosperity. While in Clearwater county, Mr. Skrukruud served as a member of the town board of Greenwood, Clearwater county. Mathias Skrukruud was married April 4, 1900, to Clara Rude, born February 26, 1878, daughter of Knute T. and Marie (Hanson) Rude, the pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Skrukruud have eight children: Theodore, born February 25, 1902; Myrtle, born August 9, 1903; Alice, born March 1, 1905; Irwin, born February 1, 1907; Mabel, born July 5, 1908; Kenneth, born September 17, 1910; Melvin, born December 7, 1912; and Viola, born May 15, 1915.

Harry E. Johnson, a prosperous young farmer of Flora township, was born in Flora township, Renville county, April 29, 1887, son of William Johnson, a leading man of his community and for many years clerk of the township. Harry E. Johnson received his early education in the district school and later in the high school in Renville. He then remained at home until his father helped him get a farm of 200 acres in Crooks township. Later he sold this and purchased 160 acres in section 8, Flora township. He has improved the farm and keeps a good grade of stock. Mr. Johnson was married to Emma Wulf, born in Brownton, McLeod county, this state, and daughter of Herman and Christine (Boie) Wulf, natives of Germany and United States, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have one child, Helen Merle, born June 23, 1912. The family are members of the Methodist church at Renville.

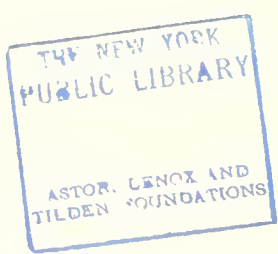
William Johnson, an estimable citizen of Flora township, was born in Indiana, March 1, 1861, son of George and Martha (Lawson) Johnson. George Johnson died about 1863, leaving two children, William and Pleasant H., now residing in Oregon. The widow married Henry Thompson, and in 1867 they came to Renville county and located on a homestead in section 18, Flora township. There they erected a log cabin and started farming, undergoing all the privations and hardships of pioneer life. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are both dead. Their son, Louis, lives in Montevideo, Minnesota, while their daughter, Emma, is deceased. William Johnson received his education in Flora township. He was about eighteen when he started out for himself by working as a farmhand. At the age of twenty-two he bought a tract of 120 acres of railroad land in section 5, Flora township. No improvements had then been made. Gradually he developed the place and in time put up a frame house and erected other suitable buildings. He has increased this farm to 200 acres and to it he has added a farm of 160 acres in section 8, Flora township. He has erected good buildings, set out a grove, and brought the place to a high stage of cultivation. He also has a fine fruit

orchard. His farming operations have been successful and he has been especially fortunate in the raising of good stock. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Renville and in the Flora Township Insurance Co. He has been supervisor of his township, and a member of the schoolboard and has served in many other positions of trust and responsibility. Fraternally he is a member of the Woodmen. William Johnson was married about 1885 to Ellen, the daughter of James Gaffney, and they have two sons, Harry E. and Ray. By a previous marriage Mrs. Johnson has one son, Arthur.

Herman F. Manthei, one of the leading agriculturists of Troy township, has been a resident of this county for some thirty-five years. Coming to this region without resources, except his health, strength and sturdy character, he has gradually achieved prosperity, has become a prominent man in the community, has raised a large family of splendid children, and has more than taken his part in the growth, progress and development of the county. Herman F. Manthei was born in Germany, March 17, 1862, son of Charles and Wilhelmina (Wilke) Manthei, who brought him to the United States in 1875. For several years he lived with them in Nicollet county, this state. Early in 1881 he came to Renville county, worked out as a farm hand for a while, rented a farm in Flora township for a few years, and in 1886, after having married, bought 160 acres in section 29, Troy township. To this, in time, he added tracts of forty, eighty, eighty and two hundred acres, thus making 560 acres in all. To his son, Herman H., he has given 80 acres in section 21, Troy township and he has sold an acre to the school district so that he now owns 519 acres of as good land as is to be found in the county. When he acquired the original 160 acres no improvements had been made thereon. He at once set to work to bring it under cultivation. He erected a sightly house, commodious barns, and other outbuildings, constructed fences, purchased equipment and machinery, and as time progressed achieved prosperity, success and comfort. He raises good stock, and takes special pride in his herd of full-blooded Shorthorn cattle. His horses are of a good grade, mostly of Belgian breed. His swine are also of a good grade. His chickens are of the Plymouth Rock variety. Busy as he is with his extensive farm work, he has found time for public service, having been supervisor of the town four years as well as serving in other offices. A thorough believer in education he has given good service as treasurer of the school board for eighteen years. A faithful adherent of the Evangelical Association faith, he has been an officer of that church in Troy township. He has also served the community in other ways. Mr. Manthei's long residence in this county covers a period of many interesting memories. He has seen all the present villages of Renville county



HERMAN MANTHEI AND FAMILY



in their infancy and has watched their growth with interest. He went through the great storm of 1880-81 which blocked traffic for weeks. He has experienced the hail and the droughts and on several occasions has barely escaped serious injury in winter storms. His knowledge of the past has made him a valued observer of present day conditions and his advice on all subjects is received with respectful attention. Mr. Manthei was married to Mathilda Rieck, born in Germany, February 17, 1863, daughter of William and Henrietta (Fale) Rieck, the pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Manthei have had eleven children: Herman, Clara, Esther, Olga, Rheuben, William C., Oscar Otto, Mathilda, Ralph, Marcella, and Glorine. Herman married Clara Pfeiffer and they have one child, Gordon. Clara married Herman A. Schendall, and they have two children, Ruth and Lanrel. Esther married Henry Metz, and they have one child, Annette. Olga married Henry Albert, and they have one child, Lola. Rheuben married Grace Brietzkratz, and they have two children, Adaline and Joyce.

William Reick was born in Germany, married Henrietta Fale, and in 1873, came to America, bringing his wife and four children, Gustave, Herman, William and Mathilda. They came to Troy township, located on section 20, bought out an earlier settler's homestead rights, and there spent the remainder of their days. Like many other pioneers, they lived in a sod house, farmed with oxen, and underwent many hardships. But in time they prospered and achieved comfort and happiness. Their son now lives on the place. William Rieck was one of the officials of the Evangelical church of Troy, of which he and his wife were among the charter members.

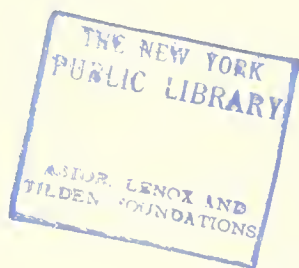
Peder J. Myra, the pioneer, was born in Kongsberg, Norway, and was there married. In 1867, he and his good wife, Christina, set sail for America, reaching this land of promise after a long and tedious voyage of thirteen weeks aboard an old-fashioned sailing vessel. For a time he lived in Wisconsin. In 1872 he again set out, leaving his wife and three children, Jorgen P., Lena and Helen, behind, and driving with a pair of horses to Renville county, this state, finally selecting a good claim in section 36, Wang township. For a time he lived with Olavas Rude. Then he erected a crude structure, a hole in the earth built up with logs and roofed with marsh hay, and into this moved with his family. The land was all wild, there were no comforts, hardships were many. He sold his horses and secured some oxen. He had brought his old wagon with him, but he had to make a drag out of the crudest materials. He brought a cow and this furnished milk for the children. The nearest mill was at New London, and the trips to this point were always fraught with incidents and sometimes with dangers. Thus he labored ahead. Gradually he got his land cleared and broken, he added to the original tract

until he owned 220 acres, he erected a good frame house and some substantial buildings and became a prosperous and prominent man. In spite of the grasshoppers and the dry year he forged ahead and achieved success. While never a seeker for office he served for a while on the school board. He was one of the earliest members of the Hawk Creek church. After a useful, well-spent life, he died December 15, 1902, and his widow, who was born in October, 1840, is now living in Sacred Heart. In addition to the children mentioned there are seven more: Carrie, Anna, Tilla, Petra, Mary, Emma, and Sophia.

Ole Nelson, early settler of the town of Hoff, in Pope county, was born in Norway, and there married Mary Haugen. In 1868 he left her and the two children, Sophia and Martin, in the old country, and after a voyage of seven weeks reached America. For a time he lived in Clayton county, Iowa, and there the family joined him in 1869. In 1870 he started out with a yoke of oxen, his wife, and his three children (Lena having been born in Iowa), for Hoff township, where he located on 80 acres of wild land. For a time the family lived in the wagon in which they came. Then they lived in a dugout until they built a house. There Mrs. Nelson died. There Mr. Nelson still lives at the good old age of 78. In addition to the three children mentioned, there are three, Mary, Olive and Nels born in Hoff township.

Jorgen P. Myra, a well-to-do and influential citizen of Wang township, was born in Rock Prairie, Wisconsin, August 23, 1868, son of Peder Jorgen Myra and his wife, Christina, who brought him to Wang township in 1872. Here he was reared and educated and here he learned farming pursuits from his father. He now carries on general farming on an extensive scale, owns 300 acres of valuable land, and makes a specialty of breeding good stock. Jorgen P. Myra was married November 17, 1893, to Sophia Nelson, who was born in Norway, November 19, 1866, daughter of Ole and Mary (Haugen) Nelson. Mr. and Mrs. Myra have four children: Peder, Henry, Olena and Melvin.

Ole Hendrekson Oppegaard, one of the substantial pioneers, was born in Sweden, in 1837, there attended school, and there grew to sturdy manhood. In 1867 at the age of thirty years he came to America, and after something like a year's sojourn in Carver county, this state, came to this county accompanied by his mother. He secured a homestead of forty acres in section 24, Hawk Creek, and she a homestead of eighty acres adjoining. Her homestead passed into the possession of Ole Oppegaard at her death, and he later acquired another eighty by purchase, so that he in time possessed a splendid farm of 200 acres. In the early days he experienced all the hardships of pioneer life, but he made the best of the conditions and in time became a prominent and influential citizen. First he lived in a log cabin and kept his





ENOCH O. OPPEGAARD

stock in straw sheds. Later a frame house and frame barns were erected and the place assumed a thrifty and prosperous air. Mr. Oppegaard died September 15, 1894. Ole Hendrekson Oppegaard was married in Hawk Creek in 1872 to Bertha Erickson, who was born in Sweden in April, 1848, came to America in 1869 when not quite twenty-one years of age, worked for a year in Minneapolis for a Murphy family, and then came to Hawk Creek where she met and married Mr. Oppegaard. Mr. and Mrs. Oppegaard were the parents of eight children: Enoch, of Hawk Creek; Ole (deceased); Emma, now Mrs. Ernest Fischer, of Minneapolis; Bertha, now Mrs. Rasmus Halseth, of Madison, South Dakota; Martha, now Mrs. Harold Romnes, of Hawk Creek township; Theoline, of Hawk Creek; Henry is a dentist at Hills, Minnesota; and Julia M., a student at the University of Minnesota.

Enoch O. Oppegaard, a progressive farmer of Hawk Creek township, and one whose efficient service as township clerk has deserved wide praise, was born on his father's homestead in section 24, this township, July 7, 1875, son of Ole and Bertha (Erickson) Oppegaard. He secured his early education in the district school of which he is now the clerk. Later he took agricultural courses in the University of Minnesota and commercial courses in the Curtiss Business College of Minneapolis. Since then he has remained on the place where he was born. In 1900 he rented the home place of 200 acres and by frugality, hard work, and careful management, he was enabled three years later to purchase it. He has greatly improved the farm, has remodeled the house and barn, has built new poultry and swine houses, purchased modern equipment and has, in fact, taken every means possible to make the place a credit to the neighborhood. He follows general farming, and the early training which he received is of great value to him in taking advantage of all the latest discoveries and experiments in scientific agriculture. He is a stockholder in the Sacred Heart Hotel Co., the Sacred Heart Garage Co., and in the Sacred Heart Farmers Elevator Co. Mr. Oppegaard is a splendid penman and has an unusual mastery of details and therefore it is natural that his ability should be called into service by various organizations needing a clerk or secretary. He is serving his thirteenth year as clerk of his school district and his fifth year as clerk of the township and he is also secretary of the Hawk Creek Telephone Co., and of the Sacred Heart Co-operative Shipping Association. He attends the Hauge Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Oppegaard was for several years engaged in the raising of pure-blooded Poland China swine which he marketed exclusively for breeding purposes. But during the ravages of the cholera he lost his valuable herd and discontinued their breeding. Now, however, he is starting again. Mr. Oppegaard is one of the oldest alfalfa seed growers in Minnesota and

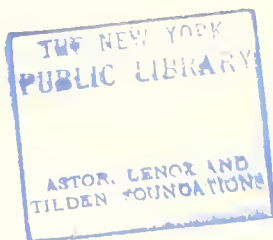
the only one in Renville county that raises the seed for market. In 1915 he took the blue ribbon or first prize for alfalfa seed at the Corn and Alfalfa Exposition held at Ortonville, Minnesota.

Andrew A. Dahlgren, who successfully operates a farm in sections 2 and 11, Hawk Creek township, was born in Skane, Sweden, June 14, 1869, son of Andrew and Sissa (Anderson) Dahlgren, the former of whom, at one time a Swedish soldier, died in 1899, at the age of sixty years, and the latter of whom is still living. Andrew A. Dahlgren was reared in his native land, and in July, 1888, came to America, locating for a time at Hopkins, Minnesota. For several years he was employed by John I. Johnson, in Wang township, this county, and later rented the place. He came to his present farm in 1900. At first he rented it. Then in 1902 he purchased a forty-acre piece of it, and in 1909 acquired the remainder so that he now owns a 200-acre farm of well-improved land. Mr. Dahlgren is a modern farmer in every respect. He has good buildings and good equipment, and carries on general farming along the latest approved lines. His grove is well kept, and his orchard is in excellent bearing condition. The house and buildings are ample and sightly and in the best of repair. The fields are splendidly tilled and two and a half acres are planted to alfalfa. Among his Holstein cattle are two which are registered, his Duroc-Jersey hogs are of the best, and his Rhode Island Red fowls are yielding him a good income. A thorough believer in agricultural co-operation, he has become a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Sacred Heart. Mr. Dahlgren was married March 25, 1897, to Mary H. Anderson, daughter of Hendrick and Carrie Anderson. This union has been blessed with seven children: Selma, born January 2, 1898; Alma born January 23, 1900; Henry, born February 27, 1902; Mabel, born January 31, 1904; Albert, born May 6, 1906; Viola, born July 1, 1908; and Hilding L., born July 18, 1913. With the family lives Hilda Nelson, who was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 28, 1892, and came to America in 1909. Mr. Dahlgren has been a Sunday school teacher in the Swedish Lutheran church at Sacred Heart.

Ole C. Sparstad, photographer and art dealer, and for many years president of the village of Sacred Heart, was born in Goodhue county, this state, April 23, 1869, son of Christhofer and Emma (Leine) Sparstad. He attended the district schools and in 1888 started out to make his fortune, arriving in Granite Falls, March 23. There he learned the trade of carpenter with N. N. Rudy, contractor and builder. His first work was in helping to build a large addition to the Westside schoolhouse in Granite Falls. Later in the summer Mr. Rudy's force, including Mr. Sparstad, erected a Norwegian Lutheran church at Cottonwood, finishing everything complete. In 1890 they erected a store



ANDREW A. DAHLGREN & FAMILY



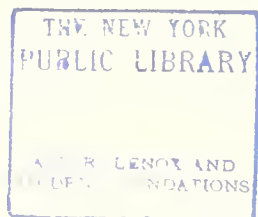
building in Granite Falls. Then they went to Watson, where they finished another large church. From there they went to Olivia where they erected a large brick-vencered school building. In 1891 they did considerable building in Granite Falls, and later in the summer erected a home at Sacred Heart for Hans Field, former county sheriff. It was on January 1, 1892, that he took up photography by becoming a student of O. S. Myhre, Sacred Heart photographer. A month later he purchased his preceptor's studio, and took possession May 1, 1892, so that he has now been in the photograph business for some twenty-four years. In 1901 he erected his pleasant home, doing all the planning, and most of the carpenter work himself. Mr. Sparstad's public career has been a most interesting one. January 2, 1899, he was elected chief of the Sacred Heart Fire Department. In March, 1901, he was elected president of the village council and is now serving his fifteenth term. In May, 1903, he was elected president of the Farmers Milling Co.; May 18, 1908, he was elected secretary of the Sacred Heart Telephone Co.; May 15, 1913, he was elected secretary and director of the Sacred Heart Telephone Co. In these positions he has since served continuously. In January, 1915, he was elected a trustee of the Free Church congregation. He is serving on the building committee of this church, and did all the architectural work on the church edifice. Mr. Sparstad was married October 15, 1895, to Olin T. Hamre, born in this county, December 22, 1873, daughter of Tosten O. and Mary (Stende) Hamre, who were born and married in Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Sparstad have had six children. Clarence Odean was born December 5, 1896, and died February 13, 1898; Florence Marion was born February 19, 1899; Thomas Sylvester, February 18, 1902; Kennette Berdell, June 15, 1905; Odella Elenor, April 7, 1911; and Doethey Elmira, September 29, 1915. The children are all at home. Christhofer Sparstad was born August 13, 1840, in Vang, Valdres, Norway, came to America in 1860, and settled in the town of Warsaw, Goodhue county, this state, where he bought eighty acres of land. It was in that township that he was married in 1861 to Emma Leine, who was born in Vang, Valdres, Norway, December 21, 1828, died August 15, 1879, and is buried in Vang Cemetery, Holden township, Goodhue county, this state. In 1891, Mr. Sparstad sold his farm to his oldest son, Thom, who now lives there, married Annie Gjivere, and moved onto her farm which is located near Vang's church in Holden township, Goodhue county. In October, 1915, they sold this farm, and on March 1, 1916, will occupy a residence which they have purchased in Kenyon. Christhofer Sparstad is the father of five children: Mary, now Mrs. Jacob Berge, of Kenyon; Thom, residing on the home farm; Andrew, of Detroit, Minnesota; Ole C., of Sacred Heart, and Lena, now Mrs. Ole Rustad, of Kenyon.

Tosten Olson Hamre, one of the sturdy old pioneers of Wang township, was born in Norway, September 16, 1837, and was there married to Mary A. Stende, who was born February 1, 1838. They came to America in 1869. They farmed in Wang township until May, 1912, when they moved to Sacred Heart where they now reside. They are the parents of six children: Betsey, now Mrs. P. E. Symes; Mary, now Mrs. C. E. Hagen; Olin, now Mrs. O. C. Sparstad, all of Sacred Heart; Andrew, who is married and lives on the home farm, and Annie and Ole who are dead.

Johannes Jacobson, a venerable pioneer, whose name will long be preserved in the annals of Renville county, was born in Sweden, December 2, 1846, and there attended such schools as the neighborhood afforded. In 1871 he left the land of his birth and crossed the ocean to America, intent on making the most of the opportunities which the United States afforded. For a while he was employed in Chicago. Then he went to Rock county, Wisconsin, and worked about among the farmers there. It was in that county also that he was married. In 1873 he brought his bride to Renville county to establish his future home. He acquired 160 acres on section 17, Hawk Creek township, and started life as a pioneer. For many years he and his wife lived in a log cabin. Times were hard, privations were many, food was scarce and there was little money. Grasshoppers spoiled the crops for two years, and even for several after that the soil showed the effects of their ravages. But with undaunted courage Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson toiled ahead. When Mr. Jacobson started farming he bought a yoke of oxen from Nels Bakke, father of John Bakke. The nearest market was at Willmar. Often Mr. Jacobson walked the entire distance, sometimes having nothing to eat on the journey but dried and frozen bread. But as the years passed by prosperity came in full measure. Frame additions were built to the log cabin making it commodious and comfortable. A good set of barns and outbuildings was erected and the farm was increased to 255 acres. Implements were purchased, fences were erected, trees set out, and the farm assumed a highly improved aspect. Mr. Jacobson became one of the leading men in his township. He served with credit on the town board and for nearly a quarter of a century did good work as clerk of school district 21. He helped to build the first schoolhouse in the district. He was also one of the founders of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Hawk Creek of which the members of his family are still ardent members. Mr. Jacobson was married May 8, 1872, at Beloit, Rock county, Wisconsin, to Anna Marie Hegna, who was born in Norway, June 24, 1852, came to America in 1869 and located in Beloit. Mr. Jacobson, after a busy life filled with successful endeavor, died May 6, 1912. His good wife died May 7, 1914. They were the parents of eight children:



JOHANNES JACOBSON AND FAMILY



Johanna Marie, Knute, Laura, Josephine, Marthea, Minnie, Othea and Albert. Johanna Marie was born Feb. 21, 1875, married W. H. Hastings of Kittson county, Minnesota, and has four children, Kenneth, Mildred, Frances and Gladys. Knute, born Nov. 30, 1876, is on the home farm. Laura, born June 6, 1879, is also on the home farm. Josephine, born Nov. 22, 1881, died Feb. 26, 1908. Marthea, born Feb. 9, 1884, is on the home farm. Minnie, born March 29, 1886, married Albert K. Agre, a farmer of Clearwater county, this state, and they have four children, Millie Adeline, Phoebe Irene and Harvey Odean. Albert, born Aug. 19, 1899, died at the age of three weeks. Othea, born Dec. 21, 1891, died Dec. 16, 1910. J. Albert, born Jan. 23, 1895, is on the home farm in which he owns a quarter interest.

Knute Jacobson, a progressive farmer of Hawk Creek township, was born in township where he now resides, Nov. 30, 1876. He was reared on the home farm, and has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. He and his brother, J. Albert, assisted by their sisters Laura and Marthia, successfully conduct the old homestead. They have replaced the log cabin with a cement block structure, making, with the additions formerly constructed on the log cabin, a comfortable and sightly home. Cement walks are laid in front of the house and in the rear, and the outbuildings are suitable and commodious. In addition to his interest in the home farm, Mr. Jacobson has 120 acres in section 17, and an interest in 45 acres in section 16. He has been assessor of his township for nine years.

Knute Osmundson, deceased, was born in Norway, July 18, 1824. His parents did not come to America but died in Norway. Mr. Osmundson and his family located in Renville county in 1870 and settled in section 4, where he bought a homestead of 80 acres, and moved into a log cabin with a sod roof and earthen floor. He had nothing to begin with and worked among the farmers. Soon he was able to afford an ox team and a cow. Later he located in section 4, in the same township, on the homestead of his brother Aslak, receiving 80 acres. Later he bought the whole tract of 120 acres and moved his family into one of the first frame houses of this section. About 80 acres of this land was under water but it has been drained and now is very valuable. He increased his farm until, at the time of his death, he owned 200 acres and had built many fine buildings. Mr. Osmundson was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. In 1867 he was married in Waseca county, to Gunhild Osmundson, born June 18, 1832, in Norway, who came to this country when a young girl. Three children were born to this marriage, Osmund, born May 13, 1868; Aslack, born June 14, 1869 (deceased); Richard, born Feb. 2, 1871. The father died August 17, 1898. The son Richard now farms the old homestead. He grew to man-

hood in Renville county and took part in the public affairs of the township, holding various positions. For three years he was the marshal of Sacred Heart village. He was clerk of his school district for twelve years and has served on the school board. For the last three years he has been township supervisor. In 1898 Richard Osmundson was married to Hermina Larson, born in Erieson township, Renville county, daughter of Albert Larson of Sacred Heart. Four children have been born to these parents: Lloyd, Roylard, Odell, and Mabel. The family are all members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Ole Johnson, originally known as Ole Johanneson, was one of the worthy pioneers of Renville county. He was born in Gotenburg, Vermland, Sweden, Aug. 21, 1840, and was there reared. In 1867 he came to America, and in 1869 to Sacred Heart township, where he homesteaded the north half of the southwest quarter of section 28. Here he and his good wife experienced all the hardships of pioneer life. The land was all wild prairie, the first home was a dugout, there were many difficulties with which to contend. They had no team and almost no tools and thus their labor was doubly hard. For a time, Mr. Johnson lived alone. After his marriage his wife took up the burden with him. Fortunately, Mr. Johnson owned a wood-lot in the Minnesota bottoms which he had purchased for \$90. This furnished fuel and building material. Together this good couple planned for the future. They planted a grove, they tilled their soil, they improved their home and as time passed erected buildings. In time their hard work reaped its reward, they increased their holdings to 360 acres, their home and barns were as good as any in the neighborhood, and they became prosperous and substantial members of the community. Mr. Johnson took a deep interest in the progress of the county, he was a believer in education, and religion for the advancement of mankind. His death in September, 1893, was sincerely mourned. His wife remained on the home place until her death, Feb. 8, 1913. Mr. Johnson was married in 1872, to Lisa Hendrickson, who was born in Vermland, Sweden, Aug. 11, 1840, came to America with her parents in 1869, lived in Minneapolis for a while and then came to Renville county. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were the parents of five children: Frederick O., Henry O., August O., Julius O. and Mary. Frederick O. is inspector to the State Food and Dairy Commission. He and Henry O. (twins) were born July 7, 1873. Henry O. is a farmer in Gall, Morton county, North Dakota. August O. was born Aug. 15, 1875, and lives on the home place. Mary was born Dec. 28, 1876, and died in infancy. Julius was born Dec. 21, 1877, and is a practicing physician in Minneapolis.

Frederick O. Johnson, Inspector of the Minnesota State Dairy and Food Commission, was born on his father's homestead in

section 28, Sacred Heart township, July 7, 1873, son of Ole and Lisa (Hendrickson) Johnson. He attended the schools of his neighborhood, and was reared to agricultural pursuits. When he entered the University of Minnesota he first took a three years' course in agriculture. In 1895 he graduated from the Agricultural school of the University and in 1896 took the dairy course in the same institution. While still a student he had the distinction of winning the gold prize as judge of the dairy stock at the National Dairy Show held at Milwaukee in competition with students from the agricultural colleges of seven states. After leaving college he worked ten years as a buttermaker. Then he entered the employ of the State Dairy and Food Commission, beginning his duties in 1910 as secretary and in January, 1911, was appointed Inspector in which position he now serves. Mr. Johnson was married Feb. 20, 1897, to Ida Kringsberg, who was born in Sacred Heart, in 1875, daughter of Ole and Martha Kringsberg. This union has been blessed with one daughter, Grace Violet, born March 25, 1903. The family residence is at 2117 Commonwealth avenue, St. Paul.

Julius Johnson, M. D., physician and surgeon of Minneapolis, with offices at 608 Physicians and Surgeons Building, was born on the home place, section 28, Sacred Heart township, Dec. 21, 1877, son of Ole and Lisa (Hendrickson) Johnson. He was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools, entered the Minnesota State Normal school at St. Cloud, taught in the public schools of Renville county two years, and in 1906 was graduated from the medical department of Hamline University. After the usual hospital practice as interne he opened his present offices where he maintains a large practice. He was married, in 1910, to Mary Mills, daughter of John and Anna (Bakken) Mills, and they have a child, Loraine M., born March 21, 1915.

Andrew H. Anderson is one of Renville county's most representative citizens. In school office, in township office, as county commissioner, and as a member of the legislature, he has done good service, has stood for the best interests of his fellow man, and has won for himself an enviable position in Minnesota public life. He was born in Vermland, Sweden, Dec. 28, 1855, son of Hendrick and Kari (Larson) Anderson, the pioneers. He came to America with his parents, reaching Carver county, this state, May 10, 1869. A year or more later, in the fall of 1870, he came with them to section 2, Hawk Creek township, in this county. Here for a short time he attended district school and here he was reared to farm pursuits. In 1874 he and Ole Clausen took a contract to construct two miles of the Pembina-Winnipeg branch of the Manitoba (Canada) Railroad. When this was completed they took the contract for an additional mile. After this work was done, Mr. Anderson went to Minneapolis and became

foreman for the William King Stock Farm near Lake Calhoun, now within the city limits. Then he returned to his father's farm and successfully carried on general diversified farming until 1890 when he purchased his present farm of 200 acres in section 6, Sacred Heart township. With characteristic energy he set to work to make this farm one of the best in the western part of Renville county. How well he has succeeded in this endeavor is shown by the fact that he now has an ideal country estate. He has enlarged the house and erected a commodious barn, as well as repairing the other buildings; and the house and barns with the spreading lawn and stately shade trees are a sight well worth seeing. He has planted several acres of timber and has a plentiful supply of small fruit and berries for home consumption. Aside from carrying on general farming he makes a specialty of breeding Poland China swine. Being a believer in farm improvements he has become a stockholder in the Ericsen Rural Telephone Co. His public life has been most interesting. While in Hawk Creek township he was supervisor two years and constable twelve years. He was school treasurer of school district 128 for ten years and when that district was consolidated with the Sacred Heart village schools as district 40, he was elected one of the trustees. When Peter P. Dustrud resigned as county commissioner in 1886 to go to the Dakotas, Mr. Anderson was appointed to fill the unexpired term. He was elected to succeed himself in 1888 and again in 1892, and thus served the county as commissioner for ten years. In 1902 he was elected to a seat in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, a position he filled with satisfaction to his people and with credit to himself. Mr. Anderson was married, Nov. 25, 1881, to Bertha Dina Sagnes, daughter of Hans Sagnes, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. This union has been blessed with ten children: Clara, Henry, Bennie, Mary, Louise, Joseph, Hannah, Theodora and two boys named Hans who died in infancy. Henry is a liveryman at Renville. He was born March 15, 1886, married Minnie Jacobson, and has one child, Madeline. Clara was born Aug. 3, 1882, and is the mother of four children, Sandy, Dora, Mae, Bernice. Her husband, Mathew Jordet, is the partner of her brother, Henry Anderson. Mary was born Nov. 3, 1890. She married W. L. John Van Fleet, a merchant of Montevideo, this state, and they have one child, Marcella. Bennie was born Nov. 9, 1887, and farms in North Dakota. He married Rosa Fletcher and they have four children: Arline, Deline, Wentworth, Fay. Louise was born March 14, 1893, is the wife of Elvin Synnes, of Sacred Heart, and has one child, Edgar Lewellyn. Joseph was born Nov. 4, 1894. Hannah was born Jan. 4, 1900. Theodora was born Dec. 31, 1901. These three youngest children are at home.

Hendrick Anderson, a pioneer, was born in Vermiland, Sweden,

and there married Kari Larson. They came to America in 1869, located in Carver county, this state, and there lived for a little over a year. In the fall of 1869, Hendrick Anderson came to Renville county, and located a homestead of eighty acres in section 2, Hawk Creek township. He built a shack and made preparation for the future. Then he returned to his family in Carver county. In the fall of 1870 the family moved here. They at once began improving and developing the farm, undergoing many hardships and privations. The grasshoppers ruined the crops for several seasons, the trips to Willmar after provisions were long and tiresome, money was scarce and the food was of the simplest. But by hard work and frugality, together with good judgment and untiring energy, Hendrick Anderson became a prosperous citizen and won for himself a place as one of the leading men in the community. To his original tract he added 120 acres of railroad land in section 11, and on this tract of 200 acres he carried on general farming for many years. After a dozen or so years the original shack was replaced with a log house. A few years later this gave place to a splendid frame house. Good barns and substantial outbuildings were also erected. This he continued until his death, Feb. 27, 1908. His good wife died a week earlier. In the family there were ten children. Five boys and one girl are dead. Henry lives in Sacred Heart village. Kari is Mrs. John Farnhof, of Santa Rosa, California. Andrew H. lives in Sacred Heart. Mary is now the wife of Andrew Dahlgren and they live on the old homestead in Hawk Creek township.

Ole T. Ramsland, one of the leading and influential citizens of Renville county is the oldest merchant in Sacred Heart village, and for nearly a half a century has been actively identified with the progress and growth of the western part of the county. He was born in Norway, Oct. 16, 1853, the son of Tonnes and Torborg Ramsland, and descended from a long line of sturdy Scandinavian ancestry. When he was seventeen years of age he asked his father if he could go to America. His father answered, "I have blamed myself many times for not going to America when I was a young man and if you really wish to go I will not say no." So in 1871 he came alone to America and located in Houston county, Minn. After working on a farm in Houston county for a year and a half he worked in lumber camps of northern Wisconsin two winters and one summer. Next he went to Eau Claire, Wis., attended school seven weeks, and then clerked in a store for Ingraham, Kennedy & Mason of that city for two years. In 1876 he settled in Renville county and purchased eighty acres of land in Wang township. He also rented eighty acres near by. He planted all his broken land in wheat, but the grasshoppers came and he realized only 185 bushels. He at-

tended the public school in Granite Falls the following winter, and in the spring of 1877 accepted a position as clerk in the general store of Neste Bros. in that place. With the exception of three months, spent at the Folsom Business College in Minneapolis during the winter of 1878, he remained with this firm until June, 1880. Since June 8, 1880, Mr. Ramsland has been engaged in the general mercantile business in Sacred Heart. When he came here he bought the interest of Christian Evenson in the store of Evenson & Stenson. Later he bought out Henry Stenson and has since continued in business alone on practically the same site. He has built up a large trade, carries a good stock, and enjoys the confidence and respect of the people for miles around, his honesty and fair dealing being widely known. He has taken an active part in public life, and has assisted in the development of Renville county and the village of Sacred Heart in particular. Although born and educated in a foreign country his sentiment is "America for me and my posterity," and it is only fair to say that he has done and is doing more than any other man in his community to Americanize the Scandinavian people and make them see the necessity of using the American language and customs in schools and churches. He has for many years served on the village council of Sacred Heart and he is now president of the school board, in which capacity he has served for many years. In 1904 he was elected on the Democratic ticket to the legislature and served one term. He also helped to organize the American church of Sacred Heart, he and his wife and two daughters being four of the original seven members. Mr. Ramsland was married in November, 1879, to Julia Thompson, born in Houston county, this state, March 4, 1861, daughter of Martin and Gurina (Iverson) Thompson. She died April 20, 1896, leaving seven children, Tyler, Magnus, Gertrude, Lenora, Rudolph, Odin and Mabel. Tyler married Birdie O'Connor and lives in Lemmon, South Dakota. Magnus married Sarah McEwen and lives in Kamsack, Canada. Gertrude is the wife of Dr. Henry Schealaben of Seward, Alaska. Lenora is the wife of Dr. T. H. Titus of Ontario, California. Rudolph married Miss Russell and lives in Kamsack, Canada. Odin married Ida Sailes and lives in Faith, South Dakota. Mabel is the wife of Olie Skjje of Madison, Minn. Mr. Ramsland was married May 15, 1898, to Lenora Arestead, who was born in Norway, October, 1870, daughter of Christ and Dorothe Arestad, who brought her to America when six months of age. They located in Houston county, Minn., and moved to Cooperstown, North Dakota when she was ten years of age. Mrs. Ramsland is one of the three first graduates of the Valley City State Normal school, Valley City, North Dakota. She is the mother of two children: Clement, born Oct. 3, 1905, and Dorothe, born Oct. 2, 1906.

Frederick Shaller, a pioneer of Crooks township, was born in Germany, Nov. 15, 1834, son of Henry and Eva Shaller. He came to America with his mother at the age of seven years and lived a while in New Jersey where though still of tender years he helped support his mother by working in the woolen mills and doing such other labor as his strength would permit. At the age of twelve he started to learn the painter's trade but as this proved unfavorable to his health he became a blacksmith. From New Jersey he came to Racine, Wis., where he continued in the same line. In July, 1861, he enlisted as a blacksmith for three years in Co. A, Fourth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. This was the first three-year regiment in Wisconsin. At the expiration of this period, Mr. Shaller returned to Racine, but at once re-enlisted in the same company and regiment and served until the close of the war, being mustered out at Madison, Wis. His entire service embraced four years, eleven months, and twenty days. After receiving his honorable discharge he returned to Racine, and resumed his former occupation. It was in 1869 that he came to Renville county, bringing his family, and locating in Beaver Falls village, where he continued as a blacksmith. It is interesting to note that during his residence there he helped haul the stones for the old stone jail, the first courthouse of Renville county. In 1878 he took a homestead of wild prairie land in section 22, Crooks township. There he and his good wife underwent the hardships incident to pioneer life. The accommodations were crude and the discomforts were many. At first they lived in a frame shanty and sheltered their cattle in straw sheds. But as the years passed the place was developed and became as good as any in the township. A good frame house, barns and outbuildings were erected, groves were planted and flourished, fences were put up, the land was developed and tilled, and the family became one of the most prominent in the community. In 1893 after many years of strenuous farm labor, they sold the place, bought a pretty home in Renville and retired. Mrs. Shaller died May 18, 1915, and since then, though Mr. Shaller still calls Renville his residence, he spends quite a little of his time with his daughter, Mrs. Henry Wilken, at 1119 Irving Avenue, North, Minneapolis. Mr. Shaller has many pleasant and interesting memories of the past. He and Holstein Ottos were prominent in the organization of Crooks township, and Mr. Shaller was a member of the first town board remaining in that position some twelve years. He also helped to build the first schoolhouse in the township and was a member of the school board for a considerable period. He is a loyal and patriotic member of Hazen Post, G. A. R., at Renville, also a charter member of Pop Wilson Lodge, I. O. O. F. Mr. Shaller was married at Racine, Wis., May 14, 1864, to Christina Yantz, who was born

in Erie county, New York, July 5, 1845. She proved a loyal companion, a faithful wife, and a loving mother, and her death is being long and sincerely mourned. To this worthy couple there were born five children: William, Mary, Matilda, Ida and John. William, born April 24, 1867, at Racine, Wis., is now living in Renville county. Mary was born in Racine, Wis., March 28, 1869, is the wife of Martin Peterson, of Crooks township, and has eleven children: Murray, Amanda, Laura, Eva (who died at the age of seven months), Ruth, Edna, Dorthe, Gerald, Mary, Joel and Lilah. Matilda was born in Beaver Falls, this county, is the wife of Henry Wileken, of Minneapolis, and has three children, Carl, Harry and Theodore. Ida was born in Beaver Falls, March 30, 1875, married H. S. Pettis, of Crooks township, and has eleven children, Larressa, Edith, Fred, Adelia, Lloyd, Jennie, Florence, Percilla, Ira, Wallace and Alden. John was born in Beaver Falls, Sept. 21, 1877, and now lives in Granite Falls. He married Laura Erickson, and they have six children: Lawrence, Fred, Lyle, Olga, Amanda and Eva. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Oscar Anderson, a well-to-do farmer of Hawk Creek township, was born in Sweden, April 24, 1851, son of Andres and Bertha (Olson) Johnson, who brought him to America in 1868 and to Hawk Creek township in 1869. For a year Oscar Anderson worked with his father. Then he went to St. Peter and worked as a stone mason for some seven years. In 1878 he rented the home farm, and ten years later purchased it. In the years that have passed he has made extensive improvements. In 1910 he erected a unique home which is one of the sights of the county. The house is made of cement bricks manufactured on the place. The cement brick of which the body of the house is made are tinged with red, giving the appearance of ordinary brick. The cornices and trimmings are also made of cement bricks, gray in color, and finished to a high degree of smoothness and hardness. The bricks about the windows and doors neatly and artistically beveled. The interior of the house is finished in oak, and the appointments are modern in every particular. The picturesque house with its many gables and large front porch resembles a small castle such as one sees in the Old Country. The place is indeed a monument to the owner, not only from the fact of its beauty and oddness, but also from the fact that he planned its construction himself, and carried out his own plans, all the material except the lumber and the cement originating on the place. Among the other comforts and conveniences may be mentioned the gas lights. Mr. Anderson is a prominent man in the community, has served on the town board as chairman and on the school board as clerk and director, and has done public service in many other ways. He engages in gen-





REV. JOHANNES E. BERGH



HANS GRONNERUD



HENRY AHRENS



NEWTON G. POORE



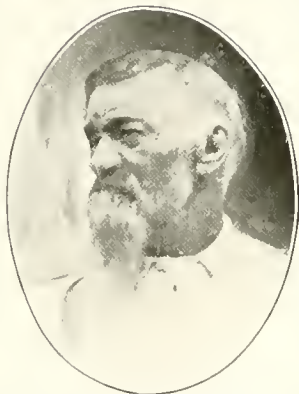
ERIC ERICSON



P. H. SWIFT



OLE FUGELSKJEL



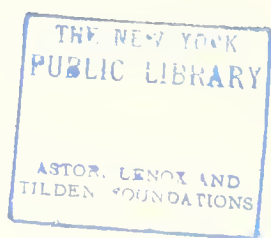
DAVID CARROTHERS



HENRY KELSEY



HANS LISTERUD



eral farming and has been very successful. Mr. Anderson had three children: Carl O., born May 8, 1884; Emma, born Nov. 13, 1891, now the wife of Albert Olson, of section 12, Hawk Creek township; and Florence, born Aug. 23, 1904.

Carl O. Anderson, an active young farmer of Hawk Creek township, was born on the farm where he still resides, May 8, 1884, son of Oscar Anderson, the pioneer. He passed through the public schools and has spent his life on the home farm. He is progressive in his ideas, is energetic and hard working, makes a close study of the latest methods of farming and is regarded as one of the coming men of the community. He is doing good work as clerk of school district 41.

Ole Fugleskjel, the pioneer, was born in Norway, Dec. 7, 1827, and was there reared and educated. It was there also that he married Synnena Nortras, who was born in that country Jan. 5, 1837. There, too, two of their children, Mary and Marithe, were born. In the summer of 1866, he set sail with his wife and these two children, and after a tedious and dangerous voyage of seven weeks reached Quebec. For a time they lived in Milwaukee, Wis. Later they came to Freeborn county, this state. In 1869 they set out with an ox team, a cow, and their household goods for Renville county. Here they started their life in a dug-out on an eighty acre homestead in section 10, Hawk Creek township. Like the other pioneers they endured many hardships. The nearest market and mill were far away. To earn money, Mr. Fugleskjel worked in St. Peter for several summers. Gradually his farm was developed and he attained prominence and prosperity. The dug-out was replaced with a substantial log house sided over with boards, suitable buildings were erected, and the farm was highly improved. Mr. Fugleskjel's merit was recognized by his fellow citizens, and he was elected to such offices as clerk, justice and assessor of the township, and treasurer of the school board. For a time he was deputy county treasurer. In church work he was especial prominent, being one of those who helped to organize the Hawk Creek church, and serving on the building committee which went to St. Peter to get the lumber for the first edifice. For several years he lived in the village of Sacred Heart where he operated a lumber yard and served as postmaster, but he spent his declining days on the old homestead in Hawk Creek township, where he died Nov. 27, 1892. His good wife died April 25, 1905.

The children in the family were Mary and Marithe, already mentioned, and Ole (born in Freeborn county), and Olin, Simon, Ola, Peter and Petra, the younger five all being born on the homestead. Mary became a teacher and is now Mrs. T. H. Nygaard. Marithe became a teacher, went to China in 1897, and died in 1899. Olin is now Mrs. A. J. Deason, of North Dakota.

Peter died in infancy. Petra is now Mrs. Paul Nystuen. The story of Ole is a sad one. He passed through the public schools, graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and taught there for one year. As orderly on the Hospital staff he served three years in the army. At Des Moines, Iowa, in 1909, he was ordained a clergyman of the Lutheran church, and was assigned to Spooner and Baudette, in Beltrami county, this state. Dec. 5, 1910, he lost his way in the woods and died from exposure. A monument has been erected at St. Olaf's in his memory by the students of the United Church Seminary.

Hans C. Listerud, for many years a notable figure in Renville county public life, was born in Norway, March 22, 1838, was there reared, served in the army five years and as a youth learned the trade of gunsmith. In 1869 he came to America, and for a year lived at New Sweden, not far from St. Peter in this state. It was in 1870 that he came to Renville county and took a homestead in Hawk Creek township. He was elected to many local offices, gradually won the esteem and confidence of the voters of the whole county, and was elected county treasurer, a position he filled with honor and credit for fourteen years. In 1910 he left the county, and took a homestead near Wolf Point, Montana. He died there Jan. 8, 1916, and was brought back to Sacred Heart for burial. Mr. Listerud was survived by a wife and eight children: Mrs. A. C. Nedrud, of Minot, North Dakota; Mrs. D. H. Schjoll, of Sacred Heart; Peter Listerud, of Minneapolis; John Listerud, of Wolf Point, Montana; Bert Listerud, of Sacred Heart; Mrs. Henry Urban, of Wolf Point, Montana; Henry Listerud, of Sawyer, North Dakota; and Mrs. Morris Lund, of Wolf Point, Montana.

Eric Ericson was born on June 11, 1844, in Palmyra township, Jefferson county, Wisconsin. He spent his boyhood days on the farm doing general work during summer months and attending the public schools in the winter. Later he attended the Palmyra High school. He received a good general education which was the foundation for his life work. During the Civil war he served seventeen months with the Thirty-eighth Wisconsin Vol. Inf., taking part in many of the severe battles in General Grant's campaign in 1864 and 1865. He was in the terrible conflict at Petersburg where so many lives were lost, but he escaped injury and illness. At the close of the war he returned to Wisconsin and resumed teaching. On July 4, 1867, he was married to Julia Gerald of Palmyra, Wis. They came to Minnesota in 1872, settling on a homestead in Palmyra township, this county. This same year Mr. Ericson was elected county auditor, in which capacity he served for five years. In 1873 the family moved to Beaver Falls. In 1878 he secured the position of railway mail clerk on the Northwestern Railway, which position he

held until 1882, when he was elected to the office of county superintendent of schools of Renville county, serving until 1907, with the exception of two terms. During his superintendency he was much interested in the work of the Minnesota Educational Association, at one time being elected President of the County Superintendent's Section. With his family he resided in Olivia from 1901 to 1908, when they removed to Minneapolis. In 1909 while engaged in school work at Moose Lake, Minn., Mr. Erieson was taken ill with pneumonia, and passed away at his home in Minneapolis, on April 17. He was buried at Palmyra, Minn., where a monument has been erected and dedicated to his memory by the school children and teachers of Renville county. The surviving members of Mr. Erieson's family are his widow, his sons Spencer, Newman L., and Clair G., and his daughter Alice, all of Minneapolis, and his son Edward J., of Raymond, Minn. Eric Erieson's name is perpetuated in the name of Erieson township, which was designated in his honor.

Henry Kelsey, a pioneer editor of Renville county, was born in Danville, New York, in 1838. In 1842 he was taken by his parents to Ohio, and the next year to Wisconsin. In 1857 he reached Reed's Landing, in this state. From 1861 to June, 1864, he served in the Civil war. After a year's experience as a printer he took charge of a daily paper at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. In 1867 he removed to Paxton, Illinois. Two years later he located at Chippewa Falls, Wis., where he was engaged as a printer and editor. In 1871 he was editor of a paper at Paxton, Illinois. Then he was editor of a paper at Lone Tree, Nebraska, for two years. In 1874 he bought the Renville County Times at Beaver Falls from Darwin S. Hall. In 1890 he moved the paper to Olivia, and ten years later sold to Wilson & Soule. In 1900 he moved his family to Woodburn, Oregon, where he died seven years later. In 1865, Mr. Kelsey married Leonore McMillen, and they had five children.

Henry Ahrens, one of the few settlers who lived in the county before the Massacre and returned afterwards, was born in Hanover, Germany, August 2, 1833, and came to this country in 1853. In 1854 he located in New York and the following year moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, going to Illinois in 1859. He was married in 1861 to Minnie Bobson, and that year they came to Minnesota and located in Nicollet county. The following spring they came to Beaver Falls, but were driven out that summer by the Massacre. The story of their thrilling escape, the destruction of their home, the loss of all their worldly possessions, their sojourn in Illinois, and their return to their former home is told at length elsewhere in this history in connection with the Wichman narratives. In addition it is interesting to note that when the family first came here they drove all the way from Will county

with an ox team, at the Indian Outbreak drove all the way back to Will county, and afterward came to this country again in the same manner. Judge Ahrens and his good wife took an active part in forming the destinies of the new county. For almost fifty years Judge Ahrens earnestly and devotedly served his town, county, state and country in various official capacities, being the county's first treasurer, one of the earliest commissioners, and later being honored by being sent to the state senate, in which capacity he showed that same solid worth and good judgment which had previously been his distinguishing characteristics. In 1903 the family moved to Morton, and here died on July 29, 1910, at the age of sixty-eight, she who through so many trying years had been his faithful wife and helpmate. Judge Ahrens continued to live in Morton, until, rich in honor, years, and the respect of his fellow men, he died Jan. 30, 1914, at the age of eighty-one years. In the family there were nine children. Of these there are living six, Fritz, Reikie, Eliza, Henry, Frank and Charles.

P. H. Swift, for many years a leading newspaper man in the Northwest, was one of the remarkable characters of Beaver Falls in the early days and left his impress on the life of the county. He was born in Orange county, Vermont, Dec. 28, 1843, son of Henry S. and Diana C. Swift, and descended from early Colonial and heroic Revolutionary ancestry. He attended the common schools of Edgerton, Wisconsin, until 1857, and then entered the normal department of the Albion Academy, leaving in his Junior year in June, 1861. At that time he enlisted in Company C, Eleventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. A little later he was promoted to be sergeant. Aug. 30, 1862, upon recommendation of the field officer "for merit," he was promoted to be second lieutenant of Co. E, Thirty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. During the Siege of Vicksburg he was promoted to be first lieutenant, June 24, 1864, and to captain Aug. 29, 1864. He was wounded at Tupelo, Miss., July 15, 1864, by a fragment of a shell, and resigned Sept. 27, 1864, at Little Rock, Arkansas. Of his five brothers who engaged in the war, two were killed in battle, two wounded, and one crippled for life. After his resignation, Captain Swift returned to Edgerton, Wis., and soon after entered upon the study of law, being admitted to the Rock county bar in June, 1867. Then he came to Beaver Falls and started practice. He was the first county attorney of Renville county and the first man from this county to sit in the legislature. While in the legislature he was chairman of the committee on federal relations, and a member of the committees on judiciary, and towns and counties. In 1872 he removed to Wisconsin, and engaged in journalism, publishing papers at Clinton and Oconto, in that state. For six years he was editor and publisher of the Oconto County Reporter. In January, 1885, he went to Rice Lake, Wis., to take

charge of the Barron County Chronotype. Some years later the Leader was taunched at Rice Lake by Col. Swift and his sons. In April, 1906, he disposed of his newspaper interests in Rice Lake and went to Watertown, Wis., where he purchased, with his two sons, the Watertown Republican, which a few months later he changed to a daily under the name of the Watertown Leader. He was prominent in public affairs, was city school superintendent, county supervisor, and was foremost in advancing all causes tending to the upbuilding of the city, county and state. For four years he was correspondence clerk in the Wisconsin state treasury.

May 25, 1865, Col. Swift married Mrs. Mary C. Swift, widow of his brother, Henry S. Swift, who was killed in battle April 19, 1863, leaving one child, Henry S., Jr. Colonel and Mrs. Swift had two children, Dean M. and Ward L. D. B. Swift lives in Winona, Minn., and travels for the Wright, Barry & Stilwell Co., St. Paul. W. L. Swift is connected with the Eau Claire (Wis.) Press Co.

Newton G. Poore was born at Columbus, Penn., May 28, 1838. At the age of four years he was taken to Ohio by his parents, and with the exception of one year in Kentucky he lived in various places in that state until he came to Minnesota. For seventeen years he made his home near Hastings, in Dakota county. One of these years he devoted to steamboating on the Mississippi, and one to working for the government in the South. It was in 1872 that he came to Renville county and took up his home in Melville township. He was married, in November, 1860, to Sarah J. Finney, and they had five children.

Hans Gronnerud, the pioneer banker of Renville county and for many years a leader in political life, was born in Norway, May 23, 1840, and there received a college and military education. He came to Renville county in 1872, and at once took an active part in public affairs. He was married in 1864 to R. Eiseh, and they had six children.

David Carrothers settled in Beaver Falls before the Indian Massacre, escaped on the first day, and afterward returned and became a prominent man in the county. He was one of the original proprietors of Beaver Falls village, he built the first courthouse, and was an early sheriff.

Rev. Johannes Ellefson Bergh, a pioneer preacher of western Renville county, was born near the village of Vossevanger, Norway, May 5, 1842, and at the age of fifteen came to Dane county, Wisconsin. In 1861 he entered Lutheran College, then located at Half Way Creek, Wisconsin, and was one of the first graduates of that school in 1866. In that year he entered the Divinity school of the German Missouri Lutheran Synod, of St. Louis, Mo., and was ordained to the ministry Sept. 3, 1869. His first call at Muskegon,

Mich., he served for two years. Nov. 12, 1871, he became pioneer pastor of all of the Norwegian Lutheran churches of Renville, Redwood and Yellow Medicine counties. For nine successive years all public services were held in dugouts, log cabins, school houses or during the summer in the open air. Up to 1874 he served five congregations located within a radius of 120 miles. To reach the various meeting places across the wild and pathless plains in those old dreaded winters there was no available means of conveyance other than that of walking. Exposed to many hazards and dangers, but always cheerfully sharing the trials and privations incident to pioneer life, Rev. Bergh, by his gentle and unassuming manner soon won for himself the good will and confidence of all, and before long this early pastor presided over one of the largest parishes in the Northwest. Mr. Bergh was not a talented speaker but much thought of as an educator. People delighted especially in hearing him catechise the children at Sunday services. In fact as catechetical instructor, Rev. Bergh was exceptionally gifted, and some claim that they have never heard his equal. Through his pastorate here of thirty-three years, he dwelt twenty-five years south of, and eight years in, the village of Sacred Heart. For reason of failing health he resigned in 1904 and died Aug. 21, 1905. He is survived by his wife, nee Marie Stub, and six children.

Carl Carlson, a pioneer, was born in the Parish of Tynset, Norway, one of the four children (Inger, Ole, Semming and Carl) of Carl and Mattie (Semmingsen) Olson. He was reared in his native land, engaged in farming and lumbering, and served five years in the National military organization, the last six months of which (in 1864) he was ordered out for active service in the trouble between Denmark and Germany. In that year he married Andrea Halvorsen Hornseth, of the Parish of Rendalen, Norway. He came to America in 1868 with his wife and two daughters, Marit, three years of age (who died on the farm at the age of fourteen), and Caroline, now the wife of County Auditor J. L. Johnson. They landed at New York, and from thence came to Fillmore county, this state, where he lived three years. From there he went to Yellow Medicine county, where he lived for a year. Then he came to Renville county, and took an eighty-acre homestead in section 4, Emmet township. He added another eighty by preemption, and increased the farm to 280 acres. Mr. Carlson is considered one of the most progressive farmers in the township. He was one of the founders of the first Norwegian Lutheran church erected in the city of Renville in 1888. This was destroyed by the cyclone of 1893. When the second church was replaced by the present modern structure, Mr. Carlson contributed generously in money and labor. He had the misfortune while working in the church on a high scaffold to fall and break his left arm, which had to be amputated leaving him a sufferer for many years. His eyesight had

also been failing for some years and he is now totally blind. After building up and improving his farm, located a mile east from Renville, he moved to the city where he had already erected a large and comfortable home. In a business way he was one of the stockholders and directors of the Security Bank of Renville and a shareholder in the Farmers' elevator.

Knute T. Rude, a sturdy pioneer now deceased, was born in Norway, April 25, 1838. He was originally known as Knute Ruud, and came from the old family of Ruud, taking the name Rude after he came to this country. He was married in Norway, in May, 1862, to Marie Hanson, who was born March 4, 1840. For some years after obtaining his education, Mr. Rude was employed in a flour mill with his father. It was in 1865, when with his wife and son, Theodore, he embarked for the Land of Opportunity. After a trip of five weeks and four days aboard an old fashioned sailing vessel, they reached the port of Quebec, in Canada. From Quebec, they went by rail to Milwaukee, Wis., thence to La Crosse, and thence up the Mississippi river to St. Paul, and from there up the Minnesota to St. Peter. After stopping in Nicollet county for a year and a half and then set out with an ox team and covered wagon overland to Hawk Creek township, Mr. Rude driving the oxen, and Mrs. Rude walking. They took a homestead of eighty acres in section 20. This being in 1868 they were among the first settlers in the township, and among the very first to settle on the prairie. They reached their future home Aug. 29, and lived in their covered wagon five weeks until Mr. Rude could erect a log cabin. They also secured eighty acres of school land in section 16, and there constructed a dugout. They lived in this dugout five winters, spending the rest of their time in their log cabin.

Like the other pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Rude started life in Renville county on the most primitive scale. Conveniences and comforts were unknown. All were strangers in a strange country. The trading points were far away, provisions were scarce and money was scarcer. There were many difficulties with which to contend, and sometimes it seemed that the privations were too deep to be borne. But with courage they forged ahead, they endured much in order that their children might start life in better circumstances than their parents. They were frugal and saving, and as circumstances permitted they erected buildings and fences, broke more land, purchased equipment, and became in time prosperous farmers. After a useful life filled with hard work, Knute T. Rude died May 22, 1880. His widow was married in June 1884, to Ole E. Deason, who took the name of Ole E. Rude. They continued to reside on the home farm and successfully carry on general farming until 1902, when they moved to Granite Falls, where they now reside in a comfortable home.

Mrs. Rude has many interesting stories to tell of pioneer life. One of the most interesting is of the arrival of K. O., H. O., and M. O. Agre and Tollef and Simon Johnson in the fall of 1868. She was out in her yard when the five men approached her home to inquire the way. They were arrayed in blankets in which holes had been cut for the heads, and she mistook them for Indians. Rushing into the cabin she sat on the bed clasping her son Theodore to her breast, resolving to protect him with her last breath. But she soon found that the men were fellow countrymen, and her joy and relief were great. The young men all settled in the neighborhood, and were her neighbors for many years. Knute T. and Marie (Hanson) Rude were the parents of five children: Theodore, Helen, Gustie, Henry and Clara. Theodore was born in Norway, Aug. 19, 1863, was brought to this country by his parents, and is in the service of the United States government at Brownsville, Texas. For eight years he was a private in the United States Cavalry. Helen was born Jan. 7, 1869, in the log cabin on the old homestead. She has been twice married. Her first husband whom she married in 1889 was Bennie Wollan, who died in 1892. Her present husband, whom she married June 2, 1896, is Ole P. Flatten, a leading resident of Granite Falls, county commissioner of Chippewa county, and secretary of the board of directors of the New Sanitarium in Chippewa county. By a former marriage, Mr. Flatten had two children: Hilda, who died at the age of sixteen years; and Melvin, who resides at home. Gusta was born Aug. 17, 1874. She married Carl Johnson, of Yellow Medicine county, and has five sons, Kenneth, Earl, Oliver, Tyler and Arnold. Henry was born Sept. 6, 1876. He is county auditor of Clearwater county, and resides at Bagley, in that county, this state. He married Martha Agre, and they have two sons, Melvin and Archie. Clara was born Feb. 26, 1878. She married M. T. Skrukrud of Hawk Creek township and they have eight children: Theodore, Myrtle, Alice, Erwin, Mabel, Kenneth, Melvin and Viola.

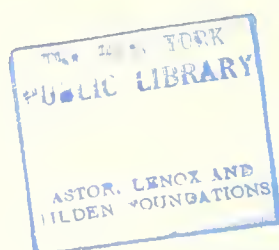
Ole O. Sveiven, now deceased, one of the sturdy pioneers of Renville county who will be long remembered, was born in Norway, Nov. 16, 1823, and there received a good education. Wishing to better his future conditions he emigrated from Norway in 1866 and set sail for the United States with his family. He first located in Dakota county, this state, where he remained for three years, working out among the farmers. In the fall of 1869 he came to Renville county and located a homestead of eighty acres in section 30, Sacred Heart township. This was all wild prairie land. In the spring of 1870 the family came and for a time lived in the covered wagon in which they had traveled until Mr. Sveiven could build a log cabin. They then moved into the log cabin and later Mr. Sveiven built a larger cabin and still



MR. AND MRS. OLE O. SVEIVEN



MR. AND MRS. OLE DEASON



later this second cabin was sided over and made quite modern. He worked hard early and late, broke and developed his farm. He set out groves and erected good buildings. He endured many hardships incident to the pioneer days. The nearest markets were at Willmar and New Ulm. By frugal habits and hard work he became one of the leading farmers of the community. He followed general farming and added to his possessions until he owned several hundred acres. In 1903 he moved to the Lars Johnson place where he lived for two years and then moved to Sacred Heart village where he remained two years. Then he and his wife took up their home with their daughter, Mrs. Paul Deason, where Mrs. Sveiven died Nov. 26, 1908, and he died Nov. 24, 1910. Mr. Sveiven was married in Norway to Mrs. Eline Larsgaard. Ole Larsgaard died in Norway. By that marriage there was one child, Martha, who died at the age of nine. Mr. and Mrs. Sveiven had five children: Otto, a farmer of Sacred Heart township; Bilot, who died at the age of twenty-five years; Martin, a farmer of Sacred Heart township; Ole, who died in infancy; and Martha, now Mrs. Paul Deason of Sacred Heart township.

Paul Deason, one of the leading farmers and an extensive land owner of Sacred Heart township, was born in Fillmore county, this state, May 9, 1866, son of Ole and Anna (Udalen) Deason. He came to Renville county with his parents in 1871. He attended school in the log schoolhouse of his neighborhood and grew to manhood on his father's farm. He helped his father break up the prairie and establish their home. In 1888 he started in life for himself, purchasing 280 acres of land in section 1, South Sacred Heart township. There was an old shack and a rude barn on this property. Mr. Deason at once set at work to establish a home on the wild prairie for himself and family. By hard work and perseverance he has become one of the prosperous men of the county, having erected a fine dwelling house and various barns and outbuildings and has added to his holdings until the farm now contains 522 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres. He also has three other farms in Hawk Creek and Sacred Heart township. His farms are all improved with homes and outbuildings and his land all told is 1,284 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres. His place is well kept, drained and fenced and bespeaks great thrift to its owner. Mr. Deason keeps a good herd of cattle and follows general farming. He has never aspired to public office but has always shown a keen interest in all movements that have been advanced for the good and betterment of his town and county. He served on the school board of district No. 15. Mr. Deason was united in marriage Nov. 30, 1888, to Martha Sveiven, who was born March 25, 1867, daughter of Ole and Eline Sveiven. Mrs. Deason has taken an interest in the upbuilding of their home and has even

been a most devoted wife and loving mother. Mr. and Mrs. Deason are the parents of seven children: Elvin, born August 5, 1889; Albert, born July 3, 1890, farming on one of his father's farms and married to Anna Alm, and they have one child, Martha Jean; Clara, born Oct. 18, 1892; Andrew, born Jan. 3, 1896; Addie, born Feb. 9, 1899; Joseph, born Jan. 3, 1903; Edwin, born April 28, 1907.

Ole Deason, deceased, one of the early pioneers of Renville county, was born in Norway, Sept. 23, 1830. He received his early education there and grew to manhood. He was of an ambitious nature and so emigrated from Norway with his family in 1858 and came to America to establish a mark in the new world. They settled in Fillmore county, Minn., where he bought land and remained there a few years. Then he sold out and moved to Freeborn county, where he engaged in farming. In 1871 he came to Renville county and settled on forty acres of school land in section 16, Hawk Creek township. The country then was all wild and there were no trees or wind breaks and the hardships were many. The long drives to Willmar, the nearest market, by ox team were very tedious, but by undaunted courage and hard work he prospered. The log cabin of the pioneer days was replaced by an up-to-date house and good buildings were erected. The groves planted by Mr. Deason grew rapidly and after a time his future was assured. He added to his land until at one time he owned over 800 acres of land. He also owned a farm in Chippewa county, near Clara city. Mr. Deason always took a great interest in the development of his community and was a ready contributor to all public movements. He was a good farmer, a shrewd business man and was well thought of by his neighbors. Mr. Deason was married in Norway to Anna Uldalen. Her life was a busy one and in bringing up her large family she left the impress of love and affection. Mr. and Mrs. Deason had the following children: Barbara, John, Amelia, Carl, Paul, Laura, Addie, Andrew, Christina (deceased), Christian, Anfin and Christina. Mr. Deason died in August, 1901, and Mrs. Deason died Dec. 27, 1893.

Daniel Ames was born Jan. 27, 1833, near Sebattusville, Maine. He died October 9, 1915, at the age of 82 years. He came to Wisconsin at the age of 21 and remained in Waupaca county until April 19, 1863, when he was married to Ida E. Witt of Plymouth, Wisconsin, and they came to Mower county, Minnesota, in 1863. In 1866 they removed to Renville county, Minnesota, and settled in the southwest corner of Sacred Heart township, section 24, township 114, range 37, where their daughter, Sophina Ethel was born. They were among the first settlers who came into that part of the county after the Indian outbreak.

Michael E. Sherin, for many years the efficient chairman of

the board of county commissioners of Renville county, was born in Credit River township, Scott county, Minnesota, Feb. 26, 1858, son of Michael and Bridget (Snee) Sherin, the pioneers. The parents were natives of County Sligo, Ireland, came to America as children, were married in Dover, New Hampshire, in November, 1853. In 1855 they came to Minnesota and located in Scott county. The father died in service at Macon, Georgia, while a private in Company I, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Michael E. was reared on the home farm, started work at an early age, and did what he could to contribute to the support of the family. In the fall of 1878 he came to Renville county, took a claim in section 18, Norfolk township, broke a little land, and returned to Scott county for the other members of the family, coming back to Renville county with his mother, his sister Mary, now Mrs. George Scott, of Dakota county, and his brothers, John, now of Walker, Minn., and James, of Olivia. The family set at work amid pioneer surroundings to clear and develop the land. In 1881 when the mother died, Michael went to Montana for a while. In 1884 he returned home. In 1886 he sold the farm and moved to Olivia, where he has been engaged in various lines of business. For a time he was in the real estate business in partnership with William P. Christianson, the first store keeper in Olivia. He has been county commissioner since Jan. 1, 1903, and chairman since Jan. 1, 1907. He was village constable and marshal of Olivia for many years. He has also served in other offices in the village.

Peter Gunderson, deceased, was born in Norway, Oct. 14, 1830, son of Gunder Gunderson. He was the only one of his family to come to America. With his wife and children he left in 1866 in a sailing vessel, the voyage taking ten weeks and landed at Quebec. When he was in Norway he was a member of a reformers league, following the teachings of Voltaire, their wish being to uplift the poor people from the Danish rule. On account of his activities in this organization he was obliged to leave the country. He went to Dakota, Minnesota. Here he worked as a carpenter and blacksmith. After two years he moved to Renville county, where he secured a homestead in Sacred Heart township, section 4, a tract of 80 acres. There were no buildings on the place. He built a log dugout and broke the land with his ox team. He built a blacksmith shop and the people for miles around came to have repair work done. In 1882 he moved to Flora township, locating on section 6, on a tract of 75 acres. He made improvements and later bought 80 acres in Sacred Heart township. A blacksmith shop was erected here also. Mr. Gunderson has improved his farm and keeps a good grade of stock. Mr. Gunderson has held the position of township assessor, has been on the township board for several years, and on the school board for

many years. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, the early meetings being held in his house at the time when there was no church building. Mr. Gunderson was united in marriage to Anna Marie Olson, who was born Nov. 26, 1828. Nine children were born to these parents, Ole, Martha, Lena, Otto, Paulina, Anna, Arne, Martin and Julius. Mr. Gunderson died May 14, 1908, and is buried in the Updahl cemetery. His wife is still living with her son, Julius. Julius helped his father take care of the farm and is a member of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Renville. He also is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Olaf H. Eliason, an energetic and successful business man and progressive citizen, was born on his father's homestead in Hawk Creek township, this county, Sept. 17, 1872, son of Hendrick and Lisa Eliason, the pioneers. He was reared on the home place, passed through the district schools, took a year's course in the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota, and spent two winters in taking commercial courses at the Minneapolis Business College. For a while he was employed around Grand Forks, this state, as a carpenter. It was in 1900 that he came back to his native township and purchased 120 acres in section 1 and 12, where he engaged in general farming. He began his career as a grain dealer in 1903 when he became buyer for the Farmers' Elevator at Sacred Heart. In 1908 he purchased the McIntire & Ferich elevator and started in business for himself. In 1909 he moved his family to the village. In 1911 he purchased the Minnesota Falls elevator in Wang township. In March, 1915, he traded his elevator at Sacred Heart for a farm, the elevator going to Ole Collin. Mr. Eliason still owns and conducts the Minnesota Falls elevator, employing a buyer while he himself looks after his numerous other interests. For some time he was interested in real estate, his office being at Sacred Heart. In 1916 he bought out the livery, dray, and ice business of Anderson & Jordet at Renville, where he now lives. He has taken an active interest in the upbuilding of Sacred Heart, was recorder in 1914-15, and is now a member of the village council. The family faith is that of the Evangelical Norwegian Lutheran church of America.

Mr. Eliason was married June 13, 1900, to Carrie Myra. She died Jan. 23, 1905, leaving a daughter, Constance Oliala, born Jan. 20, 1905. On June 2, 1909, Mr. Eliason married Veva Arntzen, born Sept. 6, 1878, daughter of Arnt and Hedvig (Hansen) Arntzen. To this union have been born four children: Alford Harry, born May 5, 1910; Ray Laverne, born April 5, 1912; Roy Harvey, twin of Ray Laverne, died Jan. 3, 1913; and Stella Ruby, born May 8, 1914. Mrs. Eliason is a gracious lady of many accomplishments. She attended the district schools of Hawk Creek



O. H. ELIASON & FAMILY
MR. & MRS. HENDRICK ELIASON

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township, and also the public schools of Minneapolis, and then entered the Willmar Seminary at Willmar, Minn., where she completed the course in four terms. Then she became a successful teacher in Renville county, a vocation she followed for seven years. One of her feats of which her friends are the proudest is the fact that in 1906 she went to Williams county, North Dakota, and proved up on a homestead which she still owns. Subsequently she taught another year in Renville county.

Gunerius Olaf Bergan, postmaster at Sacred Heart, was born in Sacred Heart township, son of Ole Kittleson Bergan and Petra Gunderson. Ole Kittleson Bergan was born in Norway, was brought to Stoughton, Wis., when seven years of age, and two years later, in the spring of 1868, to Renville county. Gunerius Olaf Bergan received his early education in the public schools of Sacred Heart. As a young man he attended the Agricultural College, University of Minnesota, and a year later attended the Minnesota School of Business. July 1, 1902, he became the first rural carrier from the Sacred Heart postoffice and retained this position until May 1, 1905. In 1905 and 1906 he homesteaded land in Divide county, North Dakota. From Oct. 1, 1906, to Nov. 1, 1910, he was in the general mercantile business at Ambrose, North Dakota. In 1912 and 1913 he was assessor at Sacred Heart. Aug. 3, 1913, he became postmaster.

Erik Svenbalrud Gundersen, a pioneer postmaster, now a retired farmer of Sacred Heart village, was born in Halland, Norway, Sept. 17, 1841, son of Gunder Erikson Svenbalrud and Pernile Ingvalsdatter, who died only three days apart in the latter part of December, 1866, the father at the age of sixty-six and the mother at the age of fifty. He attended school a few months in Norway and after coming to this country learned to speak, read and write the English language with but little instruction. April 16, 1866, he left Norway, with his wife and one child, Petra, and arrived at Waseca, in this state, June 29, 1866, being ten weeks and four days on the trip coming across the Atlantic ocean aboard the old-time sailing vessel called the "Olaf." After staying in Waseca three years he came to Sacred Heart township in the spring of 1869 and settled on a homestead of eighty acres one mile south of the present site of the village of Sacred Heart. Even as early as 1887 his farm was known as having one of the best orchards of apple and other fruit trees in the county. In 1895 he moved to the village of Sacred Heart. Here he has likewise planted a splendid orchard. Taking care of trees and cultivating a good garden is his hobby. As related elsewhere, he was the first postmaster of Sacred Heart postoffice. He was township supervisor in 1871 and 1872; township treasurer in 1874 and 1875; and town clerk from 1878 to 1896. For three years he served in the army in Norway. He belongs to the Nor-

wegian Synod Congregation of Sacred Heart, was one of its first members, and took an active part in having the church built. Mr. Gundersen was married Oct. 27, 1864, to Karen Olson. This union has been blessed with two children, Petra and Knute. Knute is manager of the Sacred Heart Telephone Exchange. Petra is now Mrs. O. K. Bergan. Her children are Eugene Lenorad, attending the Sacred Heart High school; Knute Washington, a teacher in the high school at Marmarth, N. D.; Laura, a teacher in the high school at Canton, S. D.; Clara, wife of Peter Mortenson, of Sacred Heart; Olga, a teacher in the High school at Lyle, Minn., and Gunerius Olaf, postmaster at Sacred Heart.

Alexander R. McCorquodale, captain of Company H, Third Regiment, Minnesota National Guard, and one of the leading merchants of Olivia, was born in Ontario, Canada, Jan. 23, 1878, son of August and Helen (Ross) McCorquodale, born in Canada, of Scotch ancestry. The other children in the family were: James, Nellie, Cornelia, Margaret and Anna. The family came to Minnesota in 1885, and in 1897 located in Olivia. Here August McCorquodale and his two sons, James and Alexander R., opened a general store. August McCorquodale died in 1903, and that year the business was incorporated as the Olivia Mercantile Co., with James McCorquodale as president and Alexander R. McCorquodale as vice president, treasurer and secretary. The subject of this sketch identified himself with Company H many years ago. With this company, mustered in as Co. H, 14th Minn. Vol. Inf., he went south during the Spanish-American war and served until duly mustered out. The company was reorganized in January, 1899, and in 1901 Alexander R. McCorquodale became second lieutenant. In due time he reached his present position. Captain McCorquodale took an important part in the building of the present beautiful armory. His fraternal affiliation is with the Masonic order. Captain McCorquodale married Helen Chambers, of Glencoe, Minn., daughter of George H. Chambers, and they have one son, Roderick. George H. Chambers is now in the lumber business at Mankato. He is a veteran of the Indian campaigns.

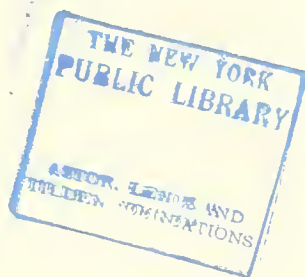
Gunder J. Lee, a leading citizen of Renville, was born in Sjørli, Yetere, Rendalen, Norway, April 24, 1847, oldest son of John and Kari (Halverson) Lee, the other children in the family being Martha, Regland, Helena, Johanna, Halver J. (for many years a prominent official of Renville county), and Kari. Gunder J. left Norway in 1868, found his way to Madison, Wis., and for a time lived in Lodi, in Columbia county, this state. There his sister, Martha, joined him. When his parents and the rest of the family came to this country, in 1870, Gunder J. Lee bought an ox team at St. Peter and drove with a covered wagon to Renville county, bringing two cows, supplies, and various household

utensils. The parents located on one claim and he on another in section 10, Emmet township not far from what is now the city of Renville. The tract was all wild land and the family underwent many hardships in building up the splendid farm which was connected with their name in after years. The parents achieved prosperity, became honored members of the community and attained a good age, the mother dying in 1884 at the age of sixty-two and the father in 1899 at the age of seventy-eight. Though owning a claim in Renville county, Gunder J. Lee was actively connected with the business life of Granite Falls for several years. For a time he worked in lumber camps. For a period he was a clerk in a Granite Falls store. Later he engaged in business for himself in that village. During this time he made frequent visits to his claim. Once when going from Emmet to Granite Falls afoot he lost his way, and finally after wandering about for a day and a half found himself at Atwater. In 1885 he made a visit to his old home and other points of interest in Norway. After a long and successful business career in Granite Falls he engaged in the mercantile business in Renville, where he erected the Lee block. In Renville, Mr. Lee still lives. He has served on the council here and as councilman and supervisor in Granite Falls and has helped in many ways to build up the community. He assisted in organizing the Security Bank, now merged in the First National Bank, and was elected one of its directors. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic and Odd Fellow orders. Like his father before him, who helped organize the first Lutheran church in this vicinity, he is an active church worker and deeply interested in its progress. Mr. Lee is married and has three children.

Henry J. Schafer was born in Hanover, Germany, July 6, 1828. In the spring of 1857 he came to America and located at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked in the brass foundry until he with his family moved to Waymansville, Bartholomew county, Indiana, in 1857. He enlisted in the army and served the last year in the Civil war. At the close of the Civil war and after his discharge from the army he moved from Indiana in the fall of 1865. He, with his family, drove, by team, in company with his neighbors in Indiana, Herman Koester, H. Hackman and Fred Stenkamp, to Northfield, Rice county, Minnesota, where he lived on a farm for three years until he came to Renville county, Flora township, in December, 1868. He was one of the pioneers of Flora township, Renville county. He took an active part in organizing Flora township and also served as one of its supervisors and assessor for a number of years. He was one of the leading and most active politicians that the Republican party had in Flora township. He was county commissioner of Renville county for three terms, from 1880 to 1889. The last

term of the office as county commissioner he did not complete, for he died on Dec. 25, 1888. He was father of eight sons and four daughters. He was a strong, fearless and outspoken man, and he was considered one of the best county commissioners that Renville county ever had.

Fred A. Schafer, ex-county superintendent of schools, and at present a retail furniture dealer at Renville, was born in Rice county, six miles southeast of Northfield, Minnesota, Dec. 19, 1865, and came, with his parents, Henry and Mary E. (Von Strohe) Schafer, to Renville county, Flora township in December, 1868. F. A. Schafer worked on the farm until he was 21 years old. His school days were very, very limited. He began to attend school during his tenth year, in a log school house. During his twelfth year he attended school thirteen days during the entire school year and during his thirteenth year he attended only twelve days during the entire school year, which consisted of three months. When he quit attending the rural school in District 22, Flora township, at the age of 18, he had no knowledge of grammar and physiology, but he was a master of arithmetic, and had a fair knowledge of the other common branches. At the age of 21 he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked during the summer months for twenty years. His desire for a better and higher education never ceased, and on Oct. 1, 1889, he was one of the first three students that entered and registered at St. Paul's College at St. Paul Park, Minnesota, where he attended for three years, during the fall and winter months, six school months each year. He began his first experience as a rural school teacher in District 8, Flora township, in the fall of 1892, where he taught a term of four months. He taught school five years in Renville county, one year in District 8, two years in District 9, and two years in District 58, known as the Gummert school. In June, 1900, he graduated at St. Paul's College, where he completed two courses, the normal and commercial course. He attended the Winona State Normal School during the fall term of 1900 and the spring term of 1901. During the summer of 1900 he was U. S. census enumerator of Flora township. He has also been assessor of Flora township for three consecutive years, 1897, 1898 and 1899. He taught school in Scott county, Minnesota, for four years, 1902 to 1906, two years near New Market and was principal of the Lydia school in Scott county, Minnesota. He was elected county superintendent of schools in Renville county on the Republican ticket in the fall of 1906, and served for eight years, from Jan. 1, 1907, to Jan. 1, 1915. When he became county superintendent, there were only twenty-five rural districts receiving special state aid, but when he retired from the above position, on Jan. 1, 1915, Renville county had 105 rural districts drawing special state aid. At





H. W. LEINDECKER

present Mr. Schafer is proprietor of a retail furniture store in the city of Renville, where he has resided since 1899. He is a self-made man, working for many years at the carpenter trade in summer in order to attend college in fall and winter.

Henry W. Leindecker, one of Renville county's most energetic and able workers in behalf of rural progress, was born at Keokuk, Iowa, Aug. 3, 1876, son of John and Katherina (Ederer) Leindecker. John Leindecker was born in Geneva, Prussia, Germany, and at the age of sixteen years came to Cheboygan, Michigan. In 1861 he enlisted in the Union army for three months, and at the end of that period re-enlisted and served throughout the war. He was a brave soldier, and did efficient service in the Second Missouri Volunteer Infantry under General Franz Sigel. For many years, John Leindecker was foreman and stove moulder in the Comstock-Cassel foundry at Keokuk, Iowa. His wife was Katherina Ederer who was born in Berlin, Germany, and, when fourteen years of age, came to St. Louis, where she was married in 1862. Henry W. Leindecker was educated in the public schools of Keokuk, and as a young man learned the cigar-making trade. March 1, 1901, he came to Bird Island and operated a cigar factory for two years. For several terms he was town marshal. Since early youth he has been interested in farming, especially in stock-raising, and since early boyhood all his spare time has been spent with the farming people. In 1910 he purchased a farm of 200 acres six miles north of Bird Island in Osceola township. This he sold in 1914 and, in the spring of 1915, purchased 160 acres adjacent to the village of Bird Island, which farm he still owns. Mr. Leindecker is a breeder of pure-blooded swine. He was instrumental in planning and holding the first sale of pure-bred swine at the county fair. He organized the farmers to fight hog cholera and was the first president of the Renville County Swine Breeders' Association, in which he has seen the membership grow from eleven members to over eight hundred, the largest organization of its kind in any one county in the United States. He has also organized similar associations in the counties of Meeker, McLeod, Blue Earth and Watonwan. Mr. Leindecker is a collector of Indian curios and geologic specimens and has a most interesting collection, one of the best private collections in the Northwest. He is a lover of the out-of-doors, a marksman and hunter. All in all, he is regarded as one of the county's most useful citizens. At a meeting of the Swine Breeders' Association held at Buffalo Lake, March 18, 1916, he was presented with a beautiful gold watch as a slight token of appreciation for the work he has done. Mr. Leindecker was married June 29, 1903, to Martha Selle, of Bird Island, and they have four children: Hardin John, born Jan. 23, 1906; George Henry, May 14, 1909; Kath-

erina Bertha, April 1, 1913; and Ruth Martha, July 29, 1914.

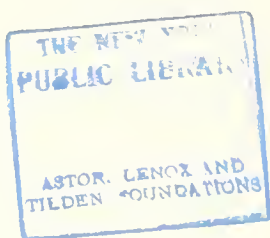
William J. Heaney, Olivia's popular postmaster, was born in Quebec, Canada, March 22, 1860, son of Owen and Margaret (Percy) Heaney. He attended the public schools of Rochester, this state, and also of Henryville township, this county. His early life was devoted to farming. Since coming to Olivia he has engaged in the hardware, machine, automobile and real estate business. He was appointed postmaster in 1914. In addition to this he has been treasurer of Olivia for many years. Among his business connections may be mentioned the fact that he is a director in the People's National Bank. His fraternal affiliations are with the M. W. A. and the C. O. F. at Olivia, and with the K. of C. at Montevideo. Mr. Heaney married Katie Kirwan, who was born in Columbus, Wisconsin, daughter of James and Margaret Kirwan, natives of Ireland. Seven children have been born to this marriage: Luella (deceased); Frank, who is cashier of the First State Bank at Glenfield, North Dakota; Wilford, engaged in ranching in Montana; Percy, bookkeeper for a hardware and implement concern at Glenfield, North Dakota; Ralph, and Homer, attending the local high school; and Marguerite, who is attending the University of Minnesota. Mr. Heaney suffered considerable hardship as an early pioneer of the county. In January, 1873, he and his father was out in the big blizzard which swept the country at that time. They were on their way to Willmar with two ox teams when they were caught in the storm, but after about four hours they were fortunate enough to reach a farm house located on the north county line and which was owned at that time by one Erick Wippen, where they stayed until the storm had subsided. After driving about five miles towards Willmar they came to the place where the three O'Neills and one Holden were found frozen to death. Mr. Heaney's father and Mr. Hagher took Charley O'Neill to Willmar, from there he was taken to Minneapolis for treatment, where both arms and legs were amputated, but he died a few days later.

In 1876 the grasshoppers destroyed all the crops and Wm. J. Heaney left home and went to Rochester, Minnesota, where he worked for three years, working in the summer and attending school in the winter months. The fall of 1879 he entered the employ of the C. N. Nelson Lumber Co., of Stillwater, for whom he worked for five years, working in the woods in the winter and on their farm in the summer months.

Owen Heaney, a pioneer of Renville county, was born in Ireland, son of Thomas and Mary Heaney, who, when he was eight years old, brought him to a farm in the Province of Quebec, Canada, where he was reared, and where, when of suitable year, he took up farming and stock-raising. In the sixties he brought his family to Minnesota and located near Rochester. It was



W. J. HEANEY





PETER HAAN



in 1869 that he came to Renville county and located on a farm of 320 acres of wild prairie land, eight miles south of what is now Olivia. Here he built a log cabin and started farming with an ox team. His market was at New Ulm and often he bought supplies at Beaver Falls. In time he improved the farm and built a modern house and barn. Mr. Heaney held several township offices and was one of the early county commissioners. He was a member of the Catholic church and helped organize the church at Henryville. Later he helped build the fine church of Olivia. Mr. Heaney was married in 1866 to Margaret Percy. Nine children were born to these parents. Thomas, James, Frank and Henry are deceased. William, Alfred, Arthur, Anna and Marie are living. William is postmaster at Olivia, Minnesota. Alfred is at Olivia, North Dakota, farming and ranching. Arthur is in the automobile industry at Minneapolis. Anna is Mrs. J. C. Kirwan, of Great Falls, Montana. Marie is Mrs. Fred Zachor, of Olivia, North Dakota. Owen Heaney died at the age of seventy-eight years, in 1902, and his wife died March 14, 1912, at the age of seventy-eight years. They are both buried in Olivia cemetery.

Peter Frederick Haan, a well-known real estate dealer of Renville, was born July 10, 1831, at Shmuda, Province Groningen, Netherlands. His father was then in the grain business but in 1837 he bought a 100-acre farm in Birta, same province, and moved there in the spring of 1838. Peter F. attended common school and high school until fourteen years of age. In 1859, when twenty-seven years of age, he went to the capital of the province, Groningen, and bought and sold grain of all kinds. In the summer of 1882 he came to America, where he remained for three months, traveling from New York to Chicago, and from St. Paul to Winnipeg and to San Antonio, Texas, stopping off in various states, to see what chance there was for going into the land business. The same year he sold out his business in Groningen, and, with his wife and six of the children, came to America in December, 1882, locating in Le Mars, Iowa, where he engaged in the land business. Two years later the firm of Prins and Kuch, who had bought much prairie land in Minnesota, asked him to become their main agent and representative for selling their land. He accepted and moved with his family to Olivia and a few months later to Renville, Minnesota. He sold thousands of acres of land to many hundreds of now well-to-do farmers and is still in the business at the old age of eighty-four years. Mr. Haan was married in 1859 to Geerwina Oekelina Goeman, and this union resulted in fifteen children, of whom five died when very young. His wife died August 10, 1887. Seven of his children live in the United States, and two still in Holland.

In speaking of the early days, Mr. Haan says: "In April,

1885, I came to Olivia, Minnesota, to be the main agent of the firm of Prins & Kuch, who had bought 11,000 acres of prairie land from the railroad company at \$4.00 per acre. Mr. Prins in former years had been my clerk when I was in the grain business at Groningen, Netherlands. Previous to this time I had been in the land business in northern Iowa for about three years. In the fall of 1885 I moved to Renville, as that village with about 150 people lay closer to the bulk of the company's land. The price of the land was set at \$8.00 and a great deal of advertising was done, especially in Michigan and Chicago, where many of the people from Netherlands had settled. Soon we had many prospective buyers who wished to see the land. With the help of a surveyor the land had already been divided off into sections and quarter sections so that the buyer of a 160 or 320-tract could see exactly what kind of land he was getting. Our company bought all the school land to be had at \$6.00 per acre. Between Renville and Willmar, over thirty miles distant, there were then only two or three farms, and only one in what is now called Holland township, where there are now more than 150 fine farms.

"The climate is much milder now than before the settlement north of Renville. In the winter of 1886 I was out with two young men as far as Clara City. When we drove back to Renville both men wanted to see an acquaintance and asked me to let them out and they would walk back to Renville. I did. Soon a snowstorm came up and I could not see anything. I did not even know in what direction the horses were going, but left it to them to find the way, which they did. I arrived at Renville almost frozen. The two boys who had visited their friend had left a short time before the storm came and were unable to find a place of shelter during the blizzard. They followed the storm from northwest to southeast for more than ten miles when they stumbled into a snowdrift and were buried. One of them managed to crawl out and, after a while, reached a house, where he was given shelter, though he was almost frozen to death. The other died in the snowbank and was found there a few days later by ten men from Renville who were out searching for him.

"We had some prairie fires which did some damage, but were only little troubled by the grasshoppers. In July, 1887, we had a terrible cyclone at Renville. I was at Clara City that day with some land buyers. We kept a sort of inn at Renville for the traveling public, as there was no other hotel in the village. We had a 14 by 14 kitchen behind our house in which my wife was working at the time. The storm lifted the kitchen up and set it over on end. This so frightened my wife that she died. In the fall of 1887 the company and some other gentlemen from Netherlands bought about 10,000 acres of land in Chippewa county around what is now Clara City. Their plan was to im-

prove the land by breaking up at least forty acres of a 160-acre farm and also to build a house and barn on each 160 acres and rent the tract for one-third of the yearly crop. I was asked to come over there and superintend the undertaking. A house was built for me in the middle of the to-be-rented farms. So I laid out what is now Clara City. We built about fifty farm buildings and got renters for all in a short time. We also helped the people get churches in every one of the four townships, the company paying \$500 to each church. More than 5,000 people now live in plenty where, thirty years ago, there was hardly a living being."

August O. Johnson, proprietor of the "Sunnyside Farm," Sacred Heart township, was born on the place where he still resides, April 15, 1875, son of Ole (Johanneson) Johnson and Lisa Hendrickson Johnson. He attended the district schools, learned agricultural pursuits from his father, and has devoted his life to farming on the home place. To the original eighty in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 28, he has added 120 acres in section 21, also belonging to his father's farm, so that he now owns a splendid place of 200 acres of well improved land. The slightly house was erected in 1895, and the barns and outbuildings have been built as necessity has required. There is an excellent grove, a good orchard, and a plentiful supply of pure water. Three acres planted to alfalfa are doing unusually well. While devoting his attention to general farming, Mr. Johnson has paid especial attention to Poland-China swine and ten of his herd are of pure blood. Mr. Johnson was married June 3, 1907, to Christina Person, who was born in Koppomsberg, Sweden, Oct. 23, 1887, daughter of Per and Maria (Abrahamson) Johnson, who came to the United States in 1906, located in Montevideo, Minnesota, and now live in Wigdahl, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have four children: Edith, born March 29, 1910; Adella, born Oct. 20, 1911; Melvin, born May 2, 1913; and Dorris Linnea, born Sept. 14, 1914. The family faith is that of the Hauge Norwegian Lutheran church.

August W. Rice, one of the early settlers of Sacred Heart township, was born in Toten, Norway, June 12, 1841, son of Wilhelm Rice, who, like his ancestors before him, was a farmer in that country. The children in the family were August W., David, Mathias, John, Olena, Tealena, Clara and Carrie. Clara and Tealena are the only ones living. August W., Johan and Tealena and Carrie are the only ones who came to the United States. August W. Rice, the subject of this sketch, was reared in his native country and there married his first wife, Josephena, who died less than two years later, leaving one child, Sophia Wilhelmina, now Mrs. P. L. Colton, now living in Steele county, North Dakota. In 1868 Mr. Rice set sail for America, and landed

after a voyage of some four weeks. He located in St. Peter, this state, worked on the railroad for a while, in 1869 located his homestead, then married Rondena Swenson in 1870. Rondena Swenson was born in Norway, March 16, 1835, came to America in 1869, aboard a sailing vessel, landing after a voyage of nine weeks. Then she came to St. Peter, where she was married. In 1870 Mr. and Mrs. Rice came to Sacred Heart township, and located on a homestead of eighty acres in section 22, where they started life as pioneers. They drove here with an ox team, and aside from household goods and provisions brought one cow. For a while they lived in a small log cabin. The mill was at New Ulm, many miles away, and the nearest town was Willmar, thirty-five miles distant. When money was an absolute necessity, Mr. Rice would walk to New Ulm, work there for a while to earn a little, and then walk back and improve his farm. The grasshoppers came to retard his progress and there were many other drawbacks. But the family in time prospered, erected good buildings, and added to their holdings until they owned 280 acres. Mr. Rice was respected in his community, was supervisor of the township and a member of the school board, and was active in the Sacred Heart church, the services of which were often held in the school house on his place. He died on the home place, Feb. 1, 1906. His good wife died April 23, 1914. She had borne him three children: John A., Ole (deceased) and Minnie, now Mrs. P. O. Melsness.

John A. Rice, a well-to-do farmer of Sacred Heart township, was born in a log house on section 22, Feb. 1, 1872, son of August W. and Rodena (Swenson) Rice. He attended the district schools of his neighborhood and the graded schools of Renville, and was reared to farm pursuits by his father. March 24, 1896, he purchased his present place on section 24, Sacred Heart township. The buildings were poor and the farm was not well developed. Mr. Rice has erected a modern home and has made many other improvements. He successfully carries on general farming and makes a specialty of Holstein cattle and full-blooded Duroc-Jersey swine. Mr. Rice is one of the originators of the Sacred Heart Farmers' Telephone Co., secretary of the Renville Shippers' Association, and a stockholder in the Renville Farmers' Co-operative Elevator. For nine years he has served on the school board of his district. He is an active member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Renville and is at present serving as one of its trustees. Mr. Rice was married Nov. 5, 1896, to Ingeborg Samuelson, a native of Sacred Heart township, and they have five children: Walter Cornelius, Dora Adeline, George Alfred, Inez Josephine and Mildred Cornelia Rice.

Otto J. Westby was born in Norway, Feb. 2, 1852, son of John and Catherine (Olson) Westby, who were farmers in Norway.

There were eight children in the family: Lena, Otto, Gorgen, Carl, Hogen, Julia, Martin (deceased), and Ole. Otto was the first one of the children to come to America, coming to Minneapolis in 1872, where he worked for a lumber company for five years. Then he went to Willmar and later to Granite Falls, where he worked on the Milwaukee railroad. The next year he bought 80 acres of land in Sacred Heart township. Some improvements had already been made upon this land. Here he began farming with a yoke of oxen, two cows and a steer, and lived here two years, when he moved to his present place in section 13 in South Sacred Heart township, where he pre-empted a homestead of 80 acres and also bought 80 acres of railroad land. No improvements had been made upon any of this land and he built a claim shanty, where he lived for four years before building the present home. He has improved his farm and has built a fine barn 32 by 52 feet and keeps a good grade of stock. He has also owned land outside of the county, having owned land in Dakota which he has since sold. Mr. Westby has served as clerk of the school district and is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Updahl. In 1878 Mr. Westby was married in Minnesota, to Andrena O. Gilbertson, of Norway, daughter of Gilbert O. Gilbertson, who brought his family to Dane county, Wisconsin, and later located in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and still later moved to Renville county, where he died. Eight children were born to these parents: Gilbert, Cornelius, John, Clara, Martin, Alfred, Elvin and Olga. Mrs. Westby died in 1893 at the age of forty-one years. Mr. Westby was married the second time to Christina Christopherson, born in Norway in 1869. She came to America at the age of two years with her parents, Jens and Elsie Christopherson, who first located in Illinois in 1871. They stayed there five years and then moved to Minnesota, locating on a farm in Sacred Heart township. Her parents are both dead. Five children were born to this second marriage: Ella, Oscar, Hilda, Amanda and Arthur.

Lornts J. Romo, one of the earliest pioneers of Wang township, was born in Norway, Jan. 8, 1837, taking his name, with a slight change of spelling from Romoe, the farm where his family had lived for many generations. He was there reared, grew to sturdy manhood, and, on Nov. 15, 1860, married Mallena Dahl, who was born in Norway, May 14, 1837. There also were born their two oldest children, Jens and Sarah, the latter of whom, better known as Sigri, is now dead. This family set sail on an old-fashioned schooner in 1865, and, after seven weeks on the ocean, landed, and found their way to Minnesota, where they took up their home in Goodhue county. In 1869 they set out with their three children and located in section 30, Wang township, securing a tree claim of eighty acres and a homestead of

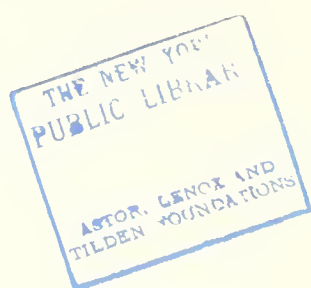
eighty acres more. Although arriving in November after the winter had set in, Mr. Romo constructed a dug-out and the family was made fairly comfortable. Food, however, was of the plainest and prices were high. Mr. Romo often brought flour on his back from the mill many miles away, but so high was the price of flour that even \$10 worth was not a great burden. Many stories could be told of the pioneer experiences of this family. The trip from Goodhue county was made with an ox team, and took two weeks. With them the family brought their household goods, a few provisions, and some cows. Privations were many in their new home. One year the crop was destroyed by grasshoppers. They suffered in many of the early storms, and on one or two occasions when storms overtook Mr. Romo it was only by the greatest effort that he managed to reach a place of safety. Thus the years passed by. The dug-out was replaced two years later with a log cabin, one of the first in the neighborhood. Later a frame house was built, and this, remodeled and improved by the son, John, is still standing on the home place. The original farm was increased until it consisted of some 240 acres, and the family became leading people in the community. In church work, Mr. Romo was especially active; he was one of the first members of the Hawk Creek church, and held therein such positions as that of deacon. Though he is now retired from the active duties of life he still retains his interest in everything that has for its object the good of the community, and his opinions are always received with respectful attention. The good wife died in the spring of 1904. The children in the family are: Jens, Sigrí (deceased), Emily, of Pine City, now wife of Gust Nelson; John (deceased), Martin (deceased), John, Henry, of Hawk Creek township, Julia, Albert, of Sisseton, South Dakota; and Julius (deceased).

John Romo, one of the prosperous and energetic farmers of Wang township, was born in a dug-out, on the place in section 30, where he still resides, Dec. 27, 1870. He was reared to agricultural pursuits by his father, attended the district school and the Willmar Seminary, and some eleven years ago took charge of the home place. He successfully carries on general farming and makes a specialty of raising good stock. Like his father before him, he is interested in church matters, and has served the Hawk Creek church as secretary for the past fifteen years. He is a stockholder in the Granite Falls Telephone Co. and the Farmers' State Bank of Sacred Heart. Mr. Romo married Clara Docken, daughter of Ingebret Docken, and they have two children, Gladys Alvine Marion and Eveline Leonora.

Peter Gerardy, for many years a substantial and respected farmer, was born in Wisconsin, Sept. 16, 1859, and died in Cairo township, this county, May 27, 1912. His parents, Christopher



MR. AND MRS. PETER GERARDY



and Agnes (Schlachs) Gerardy, were of German blood. It was in 1882 that Peter Gerardy came to Renville county and bought 160 acres in section 9, Cairo township. In 1896 he bought eighty acres in the same section. On this farm he successfully farmed until his death. Since that sad event his widow has owned and managed the place. In 1896 the house was rebuilt and is now a two-story frame building, 16 by 30 feet, with a 14 by 24 addition, a full basement under all. In 1914 a barn was built, 34 by 66, with 14-foot posts, hip roof, and with a capacity of 100 tons of hay, and room for twelve horses and twenty-six cattle, the total cost being \$1,800. On the farm are about twenty-four Holstein cattle and seventy-five Duroc-Jersey hogs and also a large flock of Rhode Island Red chickens. Mr. Gerardy was township clerk for two years and also served on the school board. He was a member of the Sons of Herman. May 25, 1881, Mr. Gerardy was married to Mary Bovey, daughter of John and Lucy Bovey, farmers in Scott county. Mrs. Gerardy was born Oct. 16, 1865. Twelve children have been born to this couple, all of whom are living. Lucy is now Mrs. Ed. Smith, of Fairfax, and has three boys and two girls. Agnes, born Sept. 6, 1888, is at home. Barbara, born April 13, 1889, is Mrs. Frank Hager, of Fairfax. The remaining children are all at home. They are Frances, born March 9, 1891; Matthew E., born May 13, 1893; Susan, born April 27, 1895; John, born August 11, 1897; Peter, born November 7, 1899; William, born September 6, 1903; Esther, born August 25, 1905; Raymond, born May 14, 1907; Ambrose, born July 25, 1912. The family faith is that of the Catholic church.

John William Anderson, a prosperous business man, was born Dec. 25, 1886. His father was born in Sweden, Dec. 9, 1856, and came to America April 28, 1881, working in the quarries for a time and later becoming prominent in the making of monuments. His wife was Annie Johnson, of Sweden. At the age of twenty, Mr. Anderson started a restaurant in Morton, calling it the "O. K." Here he remained until the spring of 1907. Then he started selling monuments for his father and brothers of the "Anderson Granite Company," with whom he is still employed. He also operates a music store in company with his brother, Fred, under the name of Anderson Brothers. They started this music store in March, 1914, and have sold to date, \$15,000 in goods. They sell the P. S. Wick pianos, sewing machines, musical merchandise and Alter automobiles. Mr. Anderson married Cina Mathillie Peterson, born May 28, 1886. Her father, Andrew Peterson, was a well-known pioneer of Lac Qui Parle county, who died May 23, 1898, at the age of sixty-two years. Her mother, Randi Peterson, died September, 1908, at the age of sixty-two years. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have one child, Clifford

Colonel, born May 23, 1908. They are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Morton.

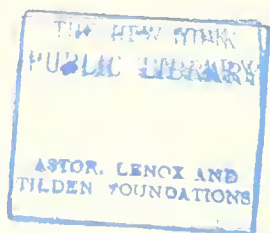
William Fallon, a progressive farmer of Boon Lake township, was born in McLeod county, Minnesota, Sept. 11, 1869, son of John and Agnes Fallon. William Fallon attended the district school and took up farming near Brainerd on a farm of 80 acres, twenty of which were broke. There were no buildings on the place and Mr. Fallon made extensive improvements and then sold this land and rented a farm in the neighborhood of Hutchinson. After two years he came to Boon Lake township and purchased 160 acres from Hugh Carrigan. This land was not improved. Mr. Fallon has erected a fine modern house, large barn, silo and other buildings. His barn was destroyed by fire and was replaced by the present fine structure. He has served as school clerk and is a member of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Fallon was married Oct. 27, 1903, to Mary Carrigan, daughter of Hugh Carrigan and the union has been blessed with four children: Charles, Josephine, Raymond, and Stella.

Emil Thang, manager of the Mille elevator, at Sacred Heart, was born in Minneapolis, Dec. 15, 1889, son of Olaus H. and Mathia (Gulbrandson) Thang. The father was born in Norway on Aug. 18, 1847, was married in 1871, came to America in 1872; lived in Menominee, Wis., about two years employed in a lumber mill; then came to Minneapolis, and worked as a carpenter and in a lumber mill until 1900, when he came to Sacred Heart township, rented a farm, and there lived until 1911, when he retired to Sacred Heart village, where he died May 7, 1912. The mother was born in Norway, May 3, 1850, and still lives in Sacred Heart. Besides Emil, there was another child in the family, Christian by name, who died in infancy. Emil Thang remained with his parents until 1912, and then became station agent for the C., M. & St. Paul Ry. Co. In December, 1914, he left that position, and, in January, 1915, took up his present work. Mr. Thang was married April 18, 1914, to Hilda Bagaas, born in Sacred Heart, Feb. 17, 1896, daughter of Halvor and Paulina Bagaas, natives of Norway. The father was born in Norway in 1860, came to America many years ago, engaged in railroad work and now lives in Sacred Heart. In the Bagaas family there are thirteen children: Magnus, Inga, Ole, Henry, Ingvald, Alfred, Hilda, Jennie, Elmer, Agnes, Theodore, Spencer and Charles. Mr. and Mrs. Thang have a son, Otis H., born March 11, 1915.

James I. Huff, one of the well-known farmers of Emmet township, was born Jan. 13, 1845, in Prince Edward county, Canada, son of Elisha and Catherine Donahue Huff. Elisha Huff was born in Prince Edward county, Canada, son of Solomon Huff and Sarah (Alger) Huff, and grandson of Paul Huff. Paul Huff was of German descent, and came to New York state before 1776,



MR. AND MRS. JAMES IRVIN HUFF



where he engaged in the occupation of miller. The family moved to Canada at the outbreak of hostilities, leaving Solomon, who went at a later date, when he bought an island of 1,100 acres in the bay of Quinte, which now bears the family name and on which some of the descendants of his family still live. Elisha Huff died at the age of eighty-six in 1882 and his wife, who was born near Dublin, Ireland, and came to Quebec, Canada, at about the age of sixteen, died in 1870 at the age of sixty years.

James I. Huff was educated in Canada and there grew to manhood, remaining on his father's farm until 1872, when he came to Elk River, Minnesota, where he worked in a lumber camp. The next year he went to Minneapolis, where he remained for seven months and then he went to Wisconsin, where he was engaged in the lumber business for seven years. In 1880 he again came to Minnesota and bought 320 acres of wild prairie land in section 3 in Emmet township. In 1881 he moved to Renville village and started improvements on his land. After his marriage he moved to the farm, where he had built a frame house and made many other developments. He is now a prosperous farmer of this section and raises a good grade of stock, specializing in Shorthorn cattle. He now has 300 acres, having sold twenty acres of his land to the railroad. Mr. Huff is a member of the Swine Breeders' Association and also of the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator of Renville. He was also a member of the Creamery Association when it was organized, and held stock in the old Fair Association. He is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of Renville. He is a communicant of the Methodist church, being one of the board of trustees, and also belonging to the Bible class. June 25, 1882, Mr. Huff was married to Effie M. Blancher, born in Drumbo, Ontario, Aug. 18, 1856. She was the daughter of Francis and Amanda (Brown) Blancher. Francis Blancher was born in Canada, son of Soley Blancher, and came to Wisconsin in 1864 and bought a farm. Here he died in 1882 at the age of fifty-one years. His wife, Amanda, was the daughter of Case and Mary Brown. Francis Blancher and wife had six children: Burley, Effie, Barkley, Issa, Philip and Charles. James and Effie Huff had five children: Frank, who is manager of a Farmers' Elevator Company at Buffalo Spring, North Dakota; Mark, who is at home and is a steam engineer; Mabel, who is a teacher; Mildred, a student of Hamline University, and Effie, who is a student of the local high school. The older children are all high school graduates.

Ole Dale, a pioneer, was born October, 1814, came to America in 1854, farmed in Trempealeau county, Wisconsin, until 1867, lived six years in Pope county, this state, and in the spring of 1873 came to Renville county, where he homesteaded eighty acres in section 23, Camp township, and here remained until his death.

May 21, 1894. His wife, Betsy Berge was born Feb. 16, 1817, and died June 13, 1905.

Olaf Dale, a well-known farmer of Camp township, was born in Trempealeau county, Wisconsin, Sept. 5, 1859, son of Ole and Betsy (Berge) Dale. He lived with his parents in Pope and Renville counties, and now owns the home place in section 23, where he resides. He is a prominent man, and has been thirty years a member of the town board, and twenty years school clerk.

Olaf Dale was married Feb. 2, 1885, to Mary Gunderson, who was born March 9, 1859. Her father, Peter Gunderson, came to America in 1870, spent three years in Olmsted county, this state, then came to Camp township, this county, and here lived until 1888, when he went to Todd county, this state, where he remained until his death in 1908, at the age of eighty-three. Her mother, Mary Gunderson, died in 1910, at the age of eighty-four. Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Day are the parents of six children: Ella, Charles F., Annie, Henry, Peter and Mabel. Ella was born Aug. 12, 1886, married Homer L. Grasmoe, a farmer of section 34, Cairo township, and has one child. Charles F. is a merchant in Fairfax. Annie was born June 5, 1889, married Carl Ruud, a farmer of Cairo township, and has two children. Henry, born Dec. 8, 1891; Peter, born March 17, 1894; and Mabel, born May 29, 1896, are at home.

Charles F. Dale was born June 20, 1887, in section 23, Camp township, this county, son of Olaf and Mary (Gunderson) Dale, early settlers. He remained with his parents until 1910, and then worked in the Farmers' Co-operative Store at Fairfax until October, 1913. Then he went to Minneapolis for six months. June 7, 1914, he and Steven Porter started an ice cream parlor and confectionery store in Fairfax. Oct. 10, 1914, he bought out his partner, and now operates the place under his own name. Mr. Dale was married April 15, 1914, to Laura Greer, born Jan. 14, 1894, daughter of Richard H. Greer, manager of the Beaufort Hotel, Minneapolis; and of Jennie (Carson) Greer; as well as granddaughter of Hugh Carson, of Fairfax, one of the pioneers of Renville county.

Arnt Arntzen, one of the earliest pioneers of Renville county, was born in Nordland, Norway, Sept. 21, 1836, there received his education, grew to manhood and was married. In 1868 he and his wife and one child, Anna, crossed the ocean, reached America in due time, and located near Red Wing, Goodhue county, this state, for a year. It was in 1869 that he came to Renville county and secured a homestead of eighty acres in section 12, Hawk Creek township. At first the family habitation was a rude dug-out. With this as their home they started life on the treeless prairie, gradually breaking the land and get-

ting in crops. After living in the dug-out for ten years they erected a log house in which the family lived until 1899. The Arntzens experienced all the hardships of pioneer life. Gradually, however, prosperity came to them. Year by year they developed the place, set out trees, built fences, purchased equipment, erected barns and outbuildings, added eighty acres to their land, and in time became prosperous and substantial members of the community. It was in 1899 that the present two-story frame dwelling was erected. Mr. Arntzen did not seek public office but for a time consented to serve on the town board. He died March 2, 1908, and since his death his widow has conducted the home farm.

Mr. Arntzen was married in Norway, in October, 1864, to Hedwig Hanson, born in Hennes, Norway, Jan. 21, 1844. Throughout their married life she proved a most loyal wife, companion and helpmeet, and she has been a loving and faithful mother. Their union was blessed with twelve children: Anna, Johannah, Randolph, Mary, Halvor, Veva, George, and Inga, living, and Amelia, Hans, Martin and an unnamed infant, deceased. Anna was born in Norway, June 30, 1866, married Edward Kaposen, now of Medicine Lake, Montana, and has two children, Abna and Veva. Johannah was born in Red Wing, Minnesota, Nov. 12, 1868, married John Thorstad, now of Medicine Lake, Montana, and has four children: Harriet, Reuben and Merrill (twins) and Helen. Randolph was born on the old homestead in Hawk Creek, Nov. 9, 1870. He is a leading dentist at Montevideo, Minnesota, married Grete Lowe, and has five children: Loyal, Lillian, Lincoln, Randolph and Millicent. Mary was born Aug. 10, 1873, is the widow of Frank DeLine, lives at Medicine Lake, Montana, and has one son, Franklin. Halvor was born Oct. 17, 1875, and lives in Medicine Lake, Montana. Veva was born Sept. 6, 1878, married Olaf H. Eliason, and has four children: Alfred, Ray, Roy (deceased) and Stella. George, a twin of Veva, resides at Medicine Lake, Montana. Inga was born April 16, 1883, is now Mrs. Inga Gibson, has one son, Delmar, and lives with her mother on the farm. The family faith is that of the Conference church of Hawk Creek.

Julius Hanson, one of the leading young farmers of Hawk Creek township, was born on the farm which he now owns and operates, July 3, 1875, son of Christopher and Mary (Hegna) Hanson. He attended the district schools of the neighborhood, grew to manhood in the parental home, and learned the business of successful farming from his father. In 1901 he bought the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead of 160 acres and at once started making extensive improvements. He bought eighty acres more, thus making a splendid tract of 240 acres which he has fenced and developed in many ways. His new barn

is his especial pride. Mr. Hanson is energetic, progressive and hard-working, and is one of the coming men of the community. He makes a special study of modern methods and carries on his agricultural operations along the latest approved lines. Aside from his farm interests he is a stockholder in the Granite Falls Telephone Co. Since 1910 he has ably served the township as a member of the board of supervisors. Julius Hanson was married Jan. 28, 1912, to Mrs. Hilda (Frederickson) Corbel, daughter of Martin Frederickson and the widow of Mr. Corbel, by whom she had one child, Henry, born Sept. 27, 1909.

Christopher Hanson, who, for many years, was one of the influential and highly-regarded citizens of Hawk Creek, was born in Norway, son of Hans Thoroson Hanson. In 1874, with his wife and five children, he set out for America, to which land his parents and other members of the family had previously emigrated. Upon reaching Renville county he secured a homestead of forty acres in section 18, Hawk Creek township, that being the last homestead land left in the neighborhood. He at once erected a log cabin into which the family moved. Then he started breaking and developing the land. One of his earliest duties being to set out the trees, which now adorn the place. The time of his arrival was an unfortunate one, for the first year the grasshoppers destroyed everything edible, even the hay. Mr. Hanson considered himself fortunate that they left him even a stack of straw, and this straw he planned to preserve with much care. After a while the weeds began to grow up and, after they became dry, in order to keep them from casting their seeds and burs into his prized stack, he decided to destroy them by fire. The result was that the flames spread beyond his control and straw and all was consumed. But in spite of such experiences Mr. Hanson was undaunted and worked with unwavering courage year by year until all the difficulties were overcome. After eighteen years he erected a frame dwelling for a residence and in time the old sheds were replaced with good buildings for stock and crops. He added to his original holdings until he owned a good farm of 160 acres, of which eighty acres was in section 18 and eighty in section 7. Many of the improvements on the place were the work of his own hands, for he had inherited considerable dexterity with tools from his father, who had been a carpenter in Norway, and whom in his younger days he had assisted. Mr. Hanson never aspired to public office, but being always interested in the progress and betterment of the community he consented to serve as road overseer, and did good work for many years as director of School District No. 21. He was a man of active church interests, was instrumental in having the Hawk Creek Norwegian Lutheran church established and spent many days in laboring on the structure, in addition to contributing

liberally toward its expenses. In the course of his farm business he became a stockholder in the Farmers' Creamery at Granite Falls. After a long, useful life, Mr. Hanson died Oct. 12, 1901, his good wife having passed away Dec. 27, 1887.

Christopher Hanson was married in Norway to Anna Gulbrandson, who was born in that country, and they had seven children: Hans, Dorothy, Bertha, Gunda and Carrie were born in Norway; Julius and Emma were born in America.

Herman Yunker, dealer in harnesses and shoes, Buffalo Lake, was born in Germany, Oct. 22, 1867, son of Peter J. and Katie Yunker, came to America in 1885, lived in Nebraska and Dakota, and then came to Renville county. He completed his education in Bird Island, in 1889, and then spent two years with Anthony Mahawald, of that place, learning the harness trade. Then he went to Eureka, S. D., and engaged in business as a grain buyer for Arthur Low. In 1893 he returned to Bird Island, resumed his work with Mr. Mahawald, and remained until 1896, when he once again went to Eureka, S. D., and there opened a harness shop. A year later he moved his stock to Buffalo Lake, and after renting a place for a while, purchased the building he is now occupying and added a shoe department. His is the only establishment of its kind in Buffalo Lake and he does a good business. In addition to his store he owns 144 acres of land four miles west of Buffalo Lake which he rents. He is a leading man in his community, has been a member of the village council ten years and its president two years, has been treasurer of the village since 1913, and treasurer of the Buffalo Lake Commercial Club since 1907. He is a Democrat in politics, and belongs to the Catholic church. Mr. Yunker was married Nov. 28, 1899, to Katie Boehme, born Oct. 5, 1879, five miles south of Bird Island, daughter of Christ and Mary (Engle) Boehme. Mr. and Mrs. Yunker have two children: Christine J., born Sept. 3, 1900; Edward J., born June 22, 1902.

Peter J. Yunker was born in Germany, April 18, 1842, and married Katie Veght, who was born April 2, 1842, and died March 3, 1881. Peter J. Yunker came to America in 1885, settled at West Point, Neb., moved a year later to what was then Dakota Territory, took a claim of 160 acres, lived there until 1890, came to Renville county, and took up his home with his daughter, Mrs. Anthony Mahawald, of Eden Valley, Minnesota. He is the father of four children: Elizabeth, now Mrs. Arthur Low, whose husband is a grain buyer living at Orient, South Dakota; Mary, widow of Anthony Mahawald, and now living at Eden Valley, Minnesota; Tracy, now Mrs. B. Herbert, living in Germany; and Herman, the subject of this sketch.

Christ Boehme was born in Germany and married Mary Engle, of Chicago, Ill. They came to Renville county and took a claim

in 1875. The wife died in 1898 and he is now living in retirement in Bird Island. In the family there were ten children.

Nels Dahlgren, for many years an enterprising farmer of Brookfield township, was born in Sweden, Oct. 13, 1852, the son of Swan Peter and Elna (Rhiland) Dahlgren, who spent the span of their years in the old country. At the age of two years Nels Dahlgren lost his father, but he was reared to sturdy manhood by his mother and instructed in useful pursuits. As a young man he married. In 1881 he came to America and secured work as a farm hand in Meeker county, this state, thus earning enough money to send for his wife and children. Later he rented a farm for a while. In 1891 he purchased 160 acres in section 28, Brookfield township this county. Some of the land had been broken, but no other improvements had been made. He erected a shed for himself and family, a lean-to for his cow. As the years passed by, however, he attained prosperity. Good buildings were erected, the land brought under cultivation and fences, and implements and equipment purchased. For many years Mr. Dahlgren successfully carried on general farming, making a specialty of stock raising. He has now turned the management of the place over to his son Christian and has built himself a comfortable home in which he is planning to spend the afternoon years of life in retirement. For a time, Mr. Dahlgren was treasurer of the old creamery. He helped to organize school district 99, and served as a member of its board for nearly twenty years. He also helped to establish the Swedish Lutheran church at Hector, of which he is a faithful member. Mr. Dahlgren was married in 1873 to Pernilla Larson, who was born in Sweden, July 19, 1848, daughter of Lars and Anna Tuveson, who lived and died in that country. Mr. and Mrs. Dahlgren have had nine children, four born in Sweden and five in Minnesota. Swen Peter died in infancy. August lives in Brookfield township. Emily is the wife of M. B. Amdahl. Carl is dead. Christian died in infancy. Christian (second) operates the home farm. Rika is the wife of Mihlo Lende. Arthur is in the bank at Hector. Pearl is dead.

Pere N. Chelin, a well-known farmer of Wang township, was born in Sweden, January 22, 1859, son of Nels and Corine (Peterson) Chelin, who spent the span of their years in the old country. The children in their family were Pere N., Mary, Nels and Gustof. Pere N. Chelin was reared in his native land, and there spent his young manhood. In 1880 he came to the United States and located in Wang township, where he secured employment with Ole Olseberg. In 1890, the two brothers came to this country and joined Pere N. Nels is now in Michigan, but Gustof is a resident of Wang township. Pere N. Chelin worked about for a while, and then rented for a few years a farm some two miles west of his present location. Later he purchased a farm of 160

acres in section 26, to which he at once moved. To this he has since added eighty acres more in the same section. On this splendid farm of 220 acres he now carries on general agricultural operations and stock raising. Year by year he has improved the place, and in every acre it bespeaks the hard work and intelligence of its owner. Mr. Chelin was married July 18, 1891, to Anna Paulson, the adopted daughter of Ole Frykholm. This union has been blessed with eight children: Pearl, Nels, Olga, Agnes, Edwin, Peter, Edith and Ruth. Mrs. Anna Paulson Chelin, wife of Pere N. Chelin, was born in Sweden, Oct. 19, 1874, daughter of Peter and Ingeborg Paulson, who came to America in 1882, and located in Minneapolis, where the mother died in 1883, and where the father is still living. In the Paulson family there were six children, Ingeborg (deceased), Anna, Elma, Adolph, August and Emil (deceased).

Jacob J. Kromer, for several years a resident of Renville county, was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, came to America as a young man, and located in Massachusetts. There in a linen mill he met Barbara Mutehler, whom he married. After their marriage they came to Peru, Illinois, where Mr. Kromer opened a meat market. Five years later they came to St. Paul, and from there found their way to Credit River township, Scott county, where he took a homestead of eighty acres in section 28. At the same time, her brother, George Mutehler, took the eighty adjoining. Three years later they secured this eighty acres, and on the 160 acre farm thus obtained, farmed for many years. In the spring of 1887 they came to this county, and took up their home with their sons, Henry and Richard, on a farm in Troy township. Two years later they moved to Olivia and erected a large residence. This they afterward sold and built a smaller place, where they lived until Mrs. Kromer's death, when Mr. Kromer took up his home with his son, Henry, in Norfolk township, where he lived until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Kromer were the parents of ten children: Fred, George, Dora, John, Christine, Emma, Carrie, Celia, Henry and Richard. Fred is dead. George is a hardware merchant in Bird Island. Dora is the wife of Herman Fischer of Bird Island. Christine is the wife of William Schmidt, of Bemidji, Minn. Emma is the wife of John Mehllhouse, of Olivia. Carrie is now Mrs. Felske, of Troy township. Celia is the wife of August Felske, of Hutchinson, Minn. Henry is a farmer of Norfolk township. Richard lives in Thief River Falls.

John Kromer, a retired farmer living in Bird Island, was born in Credit River township, Scott county, this state, Aug. 23, 1857, son of Jacob F. and Barbara (Mutehler) Kromer. He received his education in a log schoolhouse in his native township, and was reared to agricultural pursuits on the farm. In 1879 he and his brother George came to Renville county and settled on rail-

road land in section 35, Troy township, securing the south half of the section, and the east half of the northwest quarter. Their father purchased for their brother Fred the eighty acres adjoining. The three brothers lived together and came back and forth from their old home in Scott county. The first season they broke eighty-five acres. The second season they got in a crop and erected a house. In the spring of 1880 Jacob drove up from Scott county with an ox team, a horse team and a cow. In the spring of 1881 he located here permanently. In 1882 each of the brothers worked his own land. In the spring of 1883, Fred moved onto a rented farm of 160 acres in section 26. John, however, continued to live in the house they first built until 1886, and then moved into a house which he erected on his own eighty. In 1890 he moved to Bird Island, purchased a blacksmith shop and a home in 1891, and conducted the shop for several years, his brother George conducting a machine and hardware business. In 1895 Jacob moved onto a farm in Bird Island township, erected a home, barns and outbuildings, and highly developed the place in every way. Then, in the fall of 1899, he moved to Bird Island village once more. At the same time he bought 160 acres in Kingman township, which he operated from his home in the village. In 1903 he moved onto a quarter section adjoining his own quarter in Kingman township, and started to operate both places. In 1904 he bought the rented farm, thus making him a splendid farm of a whole half section. In the spring of 1911 he moved to his present home in Bird Island. He still owns the farm in Kingman township, and in addition to this he owns a large tract of timber in Wisconsin. Mr. Kromer is a prominent man, has taken a deep interest in the affairs of the community, and has been actively identified with political life in various aspects. Mr. Kromer was married Jan. 6, 1885, to Louisa Werder, and they have eight children: Mabel, Edwin, John, Lillian, Elma, Ruth, Warren, Florence. Edwin is marshal of Bird Island. John is manager of a hardware store in Erickson, North Dakota. He married Minnie Sanden. Lillian is a teacher. Elma, a former teacher, is a nurse in the Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis. Ruth is a senior in the Bird Island High School. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Carl Koshnick and his wife were early settlers in Renville county, following farming for many years. Mrs. Koshnick died in 1901 and is buried in Olivia. Her husband continued to live on the home place until 1911, when he took a trip to Germany, where he died. Their daughter, Hannah Koshnick, was deaf and dumb. She married D. O. Johnson, who was likewise a deaf mute. For many years Mr. Johnson was a tailor and shoemaker in Olivia. In spite of his handicap he was of a genial disposition and a general favorite, and is well remembered by Olivia

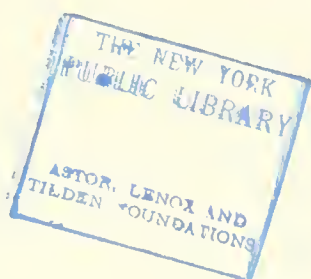
people. He died in 1898. After his death, his widow and young son, Charles, were provided with a home by Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Weichselbaum. After living with them for twelve years, Mrs. Johnson married William Jeske, and they now live in Granite Falls. The son, however, continued to live with the Weichselbaums. He developed into a bright boy of unusual ability and won the affection of his foster parents until today they cherish him as they would their own flesh and blood. He passed through the graded schools, attended the West high school of Minneapolis, and is now with an engineering crew engaged in construction work on the line of the Great Northern.

Joseph Weichselbaum was born in Bavaria, Germany, came to America as a young man. For a time he engaged in blacksmith work at Lakeville, in Dakota county, this state, and there married Elizabeth Schneider, a native of Luxembourg. From Lakeville, where they were numbered among the pioneers, they went to Minneapolis, and lived for a few years. Then they went back to Dakota county and took up their home in Farmington until 1878, when the family moved to Kranzburg, South Dakota, and took a homestead a mile and a half out of the village, while Mr. Weichselbaum operated a blacksmith shop within the village limits. He died on the farm in 1898. After his death the mother and son George moved to Olivia, Renville county, where they lived for several years. Now at the age of eighty-five, Mrs. Weichselbaum makes her home at Hamilton, Montana, in the Bitter Root valley. Mr. and Mrs. Weichselbaum have six children, Mathias, Mary, John, Joseph, Michael and George. Mathias lives in Minneapolis. Mary is the widow of W. Klige and lives in Hamilton, Montana. John has a small fruit ranch at Hamilton, Montana. Joseph lives in Gemmell, Minn. Michael is dead. George conducts a fruit farm at Hamilton, Montana.

Mathias Weichselbaum, for many years a leading lumber and grain dealer in Renville county, and now engaged extensively in the real estate business in Minneapolis, was born in Lakeville, Dakota county, Minnesota, Sept. 18, 1858, son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Schneider) Weichselbaum. He was reared in his native town and there secured his first employment as a clerk in the mercantile establishment of Jerry C. McCarthy. In 1880 he went to South Dakota and took a homestead in Coddington county. There he proved up and remained until 1883. Then he came back to Minnesota and with headquarters at Northfield, traveled for a grain company two years. It was in 1885 that he came to Renville village and bought grain for four months, after which the company sent him to Bigstone City, South Dakota, where he bought grain until August, 1886. They came back to this county and located in Olivia, where he continued in the grain business. Later he and S. E. Fay, with W. H. Gold &

Co., engaged in the lumber business, still remaining however in the grain business as well. Two years later the W. H. Gold Co. sold out. That year the yard of the H. H. Neuenberg Lumber Co. was started, with Mr. Weichselbaum as manager and stockholder. They bought what is now the Farmers' Elevator at Olivia, and later acquired the lumber yard and elevator at Danube. In the meantime, however, in 1907, Mr. Weichselbaum had become much interested in the land business. He particularized in Canadian lands in southern Alberta, and in addition to still holding large areas of this land, has already sold some 25,000 acres. Mr. Weichselbaum became a prominent man in Olivia, took an active interest in various public movements, and served as village councilman and as a member of the school board. In 1909 he moved to Minneapolis, where he now resides, and where he still continued in the land business. Mr. Weichselbaum was married Nov. 15, 1884, to Anna E. Thomas, who was born in Brandon, Vermont, May 30, 1862, a daughter of Harry and Esther (Carr) Thomas, natives of Brandon, Vermont, who came west in 1865, located on a farm just out of Northfield, in Rice county, this state, and there died, he in 1891 and she in 1873, leaving nine children, Olivia, Nathan, Attie, Emma, Frank, Harry, Anna, Alice and Minnie, as well as a daughter, Olive, who had, and also an unnamed infant, been born to Mrs. Thomas by a previous marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Weichselbaum have a daughter, Ora Blanche. She graduated from the Olivia High School, took courses at the Minnesota School of Business at Minneapolis, and then started her career. At Olivia she was bookkeeper for the Heins & Beyer hardware store. Then she was in the tax commission office at the state capitol for three years as assistant to Miller Davis. Now she is bookkeeper in Atchinson's department store in Minneapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Weichselbaum adopted two daughters, Eva Irena and Maude Aleen, who died at the ages of six and seven months respectively and are buried at Olivia.

Paul Albrecht, the popular deputy auditor of Renville county, was born in Nicollet county, this state, Nov. 15, 1867, a son of Charles and Fredericka (Christ) Albrecht, the pioneers, the former of whom died in 1891 and the latter of whom is now living in New Ulm. Before Paul Albrecht had attained his majority, he and his brother, John, rented 240 acres in section 17, Cairo township, which they operated until 1890, when Paul gave up farming and purchased a livery and dray business in Fairfax. Later he engaged in the implement business until 1905. Then resuming farming, he tilled the soil in section 5, Cairo township, until 1909, when he went into the automobile business at Fairfax. Jan. 1, 1914, he became deputy county auditor. While in Fairfax, Mr. Albrecht held such offices as president and member of the council, member of the school board and deputy sheriff. He





J. R. LANDY AND FAMILY

was also elected to such offices as vice president of the State Bank of Fairfax, secretary of the Fairfax Co-operative Creamery Co. and secretary of the Fairfax Co-operative Elevator Co. Mr. Albrecht was married Nov. 23, 1898, to Matilda Grams, daughter of Gustav and Amelia (Schirmer) Grams, the former of whom lives in Fairfax and the latter of whom died in 1899. Mrs. Albrecht died June 2, 1908, leaving four children: Dewey, Pearl, Emily and Olive.

Raymond E. Noble was born in Iowa, in Howard county, Feb. 28, 1879, son of Fred W. and Viola T. (Clark) Noble. Fred W. Noble was born in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, in 1855. He was married Nov. 23, 1877, in Cresco, Howard county, Iowa, to Viola T. Clark, born in Winnesheik county, Iowa, in 1859. There were four children in the family, Raymond E., Alva C. and Alta G., born Nov. 29, 1884, in Monroe county, Wisconsin, and Lyle H., born April 10, 1898, in Redwood county. Raymond E. was educated in Wisconsin and was about sixteen years of age when the family moved back to Iowa and remained with his parents when they moved to Minnesota, coming to Redwood Falls, Redwood county. The family came to Boon Lake township, Renville county, 1902, and located on a farm. They purchased Rev. George Potter's farm and took a tree claim. Mr. Noble was married Sept. 25, 1907, to Luella Haddson. The first year they lived at the home of Mr. Haddson, then they moved to Brookfield township, where they lived for three years, coming to their present place in Boon Lake township, which they rent. The family are members of the Methodist church. Mr. and Mrs. Noble have three children: Floyd Raymond, born June 11, 1910; Dorothy Blanche, born Nov. 18, 1911; and Marion Viola, born April 30, 1914.

James R. Landy. James Richard Landy was born in Marquette county, Michigan, August 13, 1867, the son of John Landy and Mary Reagan Landy, both natives of Ireland. When one year of age he came with his parents to Renville county, Minnesota, the family settling on a homestead claim in section 24, Birch Cooley, in 1868. Here the subject of this sketch grew to manhood, attending the district school and working on his father's farm. He attended high school at Mankato and later in 1894 completed the normal school course at that place, teaching country school between times to raise money with which to pay his way through school. In 1896 he was elected to the principalship of the graded schools at Buffalo Lake, which position he held for four years. On Jan. 2, 1899, he was married to Estella McKinley, daughter of Robert McKinley and Agnes Warner McKinley, then residents of Emmett township. Two children were born to them, one of whom, a daughter, Agnes Ruth, age 10 years, is living. In 1900 Mr. Landy purchased the Buffalo Lake News of G. W.

Small and was editor and publisher of that paper for seven years. In the fall of 1907 he sold the News to E. C. Clausen and moved to Olivia, the county seat, to take charge of the Olivia Times, which he purchased from H. W. Wilson and which he still publishes. In politics Mr. Landy is an ardent democrat and for six years, from 1904 to 1910, he served as oil inspector for Renville, Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle counties as appointee of Governor Johnson. He has held the office of Justice of the Peace for 12 years and for eight years past has been a member of the Board of Education of the Olivia public schools. He is a member of the Catholic church, the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Order of Foresters.

Herbert C. Sherwood, editor of the Bird Island Union, was born in Bird Island, June 26, 1879, son of Charles H. and Hulda A. (Stone) Sherwood. Charles H. Sherwood was born in Illinois, Sept. 21, 1847, and came with his parents to Olmsted county, Minnesota, in 1856, coming to Renville county in 1867. He homesteaded 80 acres in the southwest quarter of the eastern half of section 34 in Norfolk township and plowed the first furrow that was plowed in that township, living there until the spring of 1879, when he moved to Bird Island, where he resided until 1914, when he removed to Minneapolis. Feb. 6, 1865, he enlisted in Company M, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and was sent to Chattanooga to help turn back General Hood. He was discharged Sept. 27, 1865. Charles H. Sherwood was married Oct. 12, 1871, to Hulda A. Stone, born Aug. 29, 1852, and died Dec. 26, 1883. Nov. 12, 1885, he married Abra S. Salter, born March 2, 1864, daughter of S. T. Salter, a farmer in Kingman township. Herbert C. Sherwood grew to manhood in Bird Island and at the age of nineteen learned the printer's trade in the office of the Renville County Union at Bird Island, where he remained for one year. Then he became manager and editor of the People's Watchman at Sacred Heart, Minn., which he continued for nine months. The next year was spent with the Renville County Union, which he then purchased in company with M. B. Childs and operated under the name of Childs & Sherwood. After a year, Mr. Sherwood sold his interest to Mr. Childs and became a partner in a printing office at Tacoma, Wash., where he remained for two years. Nov. 15, 1903, he bought the Renville County Union and changed the name to Bird Island Union, operating it under the name of the Sherwood Publishing Co. Jan. 1, 1911, he became sole owner, proprietor and editor. The present building was erected in 1911 and has all the latest machinery and equipment, the latest addition being a fine linotype machine. Mr. Sherwood served as justice of peace for one and a half years, and was chairman for four years and secretary for two years of the Republican county committee, and for four years was deputy state oil inspector.

He was also the first president of the Commercial Club of his city. Herbert C. Sherwood was married June 7, 1904, to Edith A. Allen, born July 16, 1879, daughter of George W. Allen, who was born in 1844, now a retired farmer in Stockton, Cal., and his wife, Adelaide (Waite) Allen, who died in 1898 at the age of forty-five years. Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood have two children: Louine E., born February 25, 1908, and Francis J., born December 2, 1913.

William A. Reid, editor of the Renville Star-Farmer, was born at Andover, Mass., Feb. 26, 1850, and came with his parents to Clyman, Wis., when three years of age. He attended the public schools there in winter and worked on the farm in summer. At the age of twenty he entered the office of the Waupun, Wis., Leader as an apprentice, where he remained one year, and then secured a position to complete his apprenticeship in the state printing office at Madison, Wis. In 1877 he came to Granite Falls, Minn., and accepted a position with the Journal, remaining a year and a half. Then he returned to Wisconsin and on Dec. 4, 1879, was united in marriage to Nina Vanderbilt, of Brodhead, Wis. In the spring of 1880 he returned to Granite Falls and settled on a farm in that neighborhood, where he remained for thirteen years and where two sons were born, James Melvin and Lionel Floyd. They are also in the printing and publishing business.

Hurby L. Quist, editor of the Sacred Heart Journal, was born Dec. 12, 1873, in Chisago county, Minnesota, son of Charles and Sophia J. (Glader) Quist. The parents were both natives of Sweden and came to America when children, in 1863-4, and were married in Chisago county, Minnesota. At the age of twenty Charles Quist enlisted in the 3d Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Company C, and served throughout the war and was taken prisoner at Murfreesboro, Tenn. Before reaching prison he was paroled to return to Minnesota to help quell the Indian uprising and was one of the expedition which passed through Renville county by Fort Ridgely and thence on to Wood Lake, where he was in the hottest of that decisive battle. Later he was one of the chain guards at the execution of the thirty-nine Indians hanged Dec. 26, 1862, at Mankato. Later he was exchanged with other prisoners taken at the same time. The parole cancelled, he served until the end of the Civil war. Nine children were born to these parents, of whom five are living: The subject of this sketch, Earnest L., of Pasadena, Cal.; Walter H. and Irving E., of Thief River Falls, Minn., and Mrs. Adolph Johr (May E.), of Hitterdahl, Minn. In 1878 the family moved to a farm south of Atwater, in Kandijohi County, where they lived until 1905, when they moved to Thief River Falls, Minn. In 1915 the parents returned to live in the village of Atwater, the father having retired

from farming, in which occupation he was engaged for many years.

Hurby L. Quist attended public school in his locality and in the village of Atwater, and later attended the Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter, Minn., paying his way through by teaching, principally, after which he taught school for a number of years at various places. Then he entered the newspaper work, first on the staff of the Isanti County Press, Cambridge, Minn., and later with the Black Duck American at Black Duck, Minn., which he founded. Soon after he was called back to take charge of the Isanti County Press, with which he remained three years. Then he went to Brandock, N. D., and took a homestead, farming for five years. Here he taught school and did newspaper work in various places in winter and farmed his homestead during the summer months until 1909, when he went to Thief River Falls, Minn., and took charge of the mechanical department of the Press. Two years later he became managing editor, which position he held for one year. Jan. 1, 1913, he moved to Sacred Heart and bought the Journal, a weekly paper which appears every Friday. In politics Mr. Quist is Independent. He became a member of the school board at Sacred Heart during 1914. He is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. Quist was married June 29, 1905, to Judith M. Swanson, born Aug. 24, 1885, at Boston, Mass., daughter of Nels and Bengta Swanson. Her father died in 1910 and her mother died while she was very young. There were four children in this family, Mrs. Quist being the only one living. Mr. and Mrs. Quist have two children: Carl Gustav Melville, born June 11, 1907, and Eugene Lawrence, born March 7, 1914.

Thomas I. and Robert M. Foster are the sons of Morris B. Foster, who filed on the first homestead in Hector township. They were born on the old homestead two miles west of Buffalo Lake and except for short intervals, when away at school, have always lived at home on the farm. Both are graduates of the Hector High School and subsequently attended Hamline University, from which institution Thomas I. is a graduate. Robert M. is managing editor of the News, while Thomas I. devotes himself largely to looking after the home farm.

Herbert F. Rubey, a well-known newspaper man, was born in Cincinnati, Iowa, July 31, 1882, son of William S. and Sarah E. (Fisk) Rubey. William S. Rubey was born in Columbus, Ohio, devoted his life to farming, served four years as a private in Company H, 8th Iowa Volunteer Cavalry and died Dec. 25, 1898, at the age of fifty-eight years. Sarah E. (Fisk) Rubey died June 7, 1896, at age of 54. In 1896 Herbert F. Rubey secured employment with the Shenandoah (Iowa) Sentinel. In 1899, still a boy, he entered the employ of the George A. Miller Printing Co., Des

Moines, Iowa. Next he was foreman of the composing room of the Daily Telegraph, Atlantic, Iowa. From 1901 to 1903 he was foreman for the Glidden (Iowa) Graphic. Then he occupied a similar position with the Dennison (Iowa) Review, owned by J. P. Connor, M.D. Subsequently he was superintendent for the Carroll (Iowa) Times. In 1906, under the firm name of Orchard & Rubey, Herbert F. Rubey, and W. R. Orchard (at present editor-in-chief of the Council Bluffs (Iowa) Daily Nonpareil, purchased the Glidden (Iowa) Graphic, and Mr. Rubey became the manager. In 1911 he settled on a farm in Redwood county, across the river from Morton. In September of that year he purchased the Beaver Creek Banner. This he sold in May, 1912, to Ross & Halloran. On July 15, 1912, he purchased from O. W. Smith the Morton Enterprise, which he has since conducted. Mr. Rubey was married Oct. 9, 1904, to Rosa E. Mace, born Aug. 29, 1884, daughter of La Fayette and Mary (Beach) Mace. Her mother died in 1905 at the age of forty-five.

Ernest W. Nobbs, editor of the Hector Mirror, was born Dec. 30, 1886, in Norwich, Norfolk, England, son of Henry and Annie (Living) Nobbs. At the age of five years he emigrated to the United States with his parents and lived in Anoka County, Minnesota, for eight years. The next two years were spent in Bigstone County and from there the family moved to Annandale, Minn. While living at Annandale he spent his spare time working in a printing office. After the two years the family moved to Hector and while attending High School he spent his spare time in the office of the Hector Mirror and learned the essentials of the printing trade under the direction of the editor, Ralph Prescott. Little did he think at that time that he would at some day be the owner and editor of the same paper. Leaving Hector at the age of nineteen, he went to Minneapolis and worked as fireman in the Northern Pacific railroad. After a short time on the railroad he accepted a position as foreman in the printing department of the McClellan Paper Company of Minneapolis, which he held for two years. The next year was spent in college at Minneapolis and then he became foreman of a three-section farm in Canada. The following two years were spent in printing offices in Minnesota and South Dakota and after a time came back to Hector. Since coming back to Hector he has not only purchased the Hector Mirror and built up a profitable business, but has also been a potent influence in the town, having held several important positions, such as secretary of the Commercial Club, Junior Deacon in the Masonic order, member of the Fire Department, member of the Official Board of the Methodist church and superintendent of the Methodist Sunday school.

Phillip V. Ploof, one of the leading editors of Renville County, was born in La Crosse, Wis., Sept. 27, 1884, third son of Mr. and

Mrs. W. E. Ploof, now of Wykoff, Minn. He came to Renville County in 1903, and since that time has been intimately identified with its life and progress. For one year he was editor of the *Gibbon Gazette*. His life story is told in the story of the growth of the *Fairfax Standard*. Mr. Ploof was married, Sept. 14, 1912, to Mabel Johnson, the second daughter of Mrs. Carrie Johnson, of Franklin, Minn. A little son, John Edward, died in infancy. A daughter, Phyllis Marie, was born Aug. 3, 1915.

Charles A. Heilig, editor of the *Danube Review*, was born Sept. 22, 1887, in Pipestone County, Minnesota, on the farm of his parents, Charles Heilig and Mina M. Heilig. He received his early education in the country school of his neighborhood and in 1902 moved with his parents to Mille Lacs county, where they located on a farm near Milaca. He attended the Milaca High School, graduating in 1906 and was valedictorian of his class. During 1906-07 he taught country school at Bock, Minn. In the fall of 1907 he entered the college of Science, Literature and the Arts of the University of Minnesota and was graduated in 1912, receiving the degree of B.A. In 1912 he traveled for Northrup, King & Co., of Minneapolis. During the year 1913 he was bookkeeper for the Crescent Wooden Box Co. of Minneapolis. He was principal of Danube public school in 1914 and June 1, 1915, became the lessee of the *Danube Review*.

Julius L. Jacobs was born Dec. 2, 1883, in Upper Beaver Creek, Franklin township, Jackson County, Wisconsin, son of Anna (Evans) and John S. Jacobs, who were also born in the same locality. Their parents came from Valestrand, near Bergen, Norway, in the late forties and early fifties. Julius L. Jacobs attended country school near his home and later attended the Red Wing Lutheran Seminary at Red Wing, Minn. He engaged in teaching and other pursuits until May 7, 1909, when he moved to Franklin, Minn., and purchased the printing and publishing business of Daniel Whetstone, owner of the *Franklin Tribune*. He has been engaged in that work ever since.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

BENCH AND BAR.

Early Judicial Affiliation—Territorial Judges—District Judges—Early Courts—Murder Cases—Appeals From the District Court—The Bar—Present and Former Attorneys—Admissions to the Bar—Biography—Written by James McBride George, LL.B.

On June 11 Alexander Ramsey, the first territorial governor of Minnesota, issued a proclamation dividing the territory into judicial districts. The county of La Pointe and the region north and west of the Mississippi and north of the Minnesota river and of a line running due west from the head waters of the Minnesota to the Missouri river constituted the second of these three districts. Judge Bradley B. Meeker was assigned to preside over this district. Court was ordered to be held at the Falls of St. Anthony, now Minneapolis, on the third Monday of August.

By an act of legislature October 27, 1849, the entire territory was divided into nine counties. Wabashaw county, as designated under this act, was comprised of practically the entire southern half of the present state of Minnesota and the southeastern portion of South Dakota, thus including the southern one-half of the present Renville county.

Itasca and Wabashaw counties were for judicial purposes attached to Washington county to make up a new second judicial district, with Hon. David Cooper on the bench.

Under the same act Dakotah county was created and consisted of all the territory west of the Mississippi, south of a line due west from the mouth of the Clearwater river, east of the Missouri and north of a line drawn due west from a point on the Mississippi opposite the mouth of the St. Croix river. It thus included the northern part of what is now Renville county. Dakotah, Wahnahta and Mahkahto were attached to Ramsey county for judicial purposes and constituted the new first judicial district under Judge Aaron Goodrich, who was to hold court at St. Paul annually on the second Monday of April and the second Monday of September.

The legislature of 1851 by Chapter 1 of the Revised Statutes, passed Jan. 1, reapportioned the territory into new counties. The present county of Renville, under the new distribution, was entirely embraced in Dakota county, which county was again attached to Ramsey for judicial purposes.

By an act passed March 5, 1853, Renville county was embodied in Pierce and Nicollet counties, and the residents of the territory now composing Renville county were

compelled to seek redress of the law in Nicollet county.

Not until Feb. 20, 1855, was there created in the territory of Minnesota a county named Renville. This new county included all of the present area and small parts of Meeker, Kandiyohi and Chippewa counties.

The constitution of the state of Minnesota effective May 11, 1858, provided for six judicial districts dividing the state into six approximately equal parts. The county of Renville, with the counties of Le Sueur, Sibley, Nicollet, Blue Earth, Faribault, McLeod, and Brown, comprised the Sixth district.

During most of its early history court was not held within the county. Citizens who were in pursuit of the due process of law were often compelled to yoke the favorite team of oxen for the long trip to St. Peter or Faribault.

By an act approved March 8, 1860, a new Renville county was created and attached to Nicollet county for judicial purposes, "until the county officers of said county shall have been elected and qualified as contemplated by the act." The act further provided that the county, upon proper organization, should become part of the Sixth judicial district.

By the act of March 5, 1862, Renville was detached from Nicollet county for judicial purposes, transferring all Renville county cases from the Nicollet county court to the court of Renville county, with court to be held the first Monday of October.

However, on September 29 of the same year, after the Indian massacre, the county was, by act of legislature in the special session, reattached to the county of Nicollet for judicial purposes and all Nicollet county judicial officers were given full power in the county.

Renville remained attached to Nicollet county for judicial purposes until 1866, when the act last mentioned was repealed.

In 1861 a part of Renville county was designated as being within the bounds of Lincoln county, created at that time. This was repealed in 1866.

In 1870 an act was passed reestablishing Lincoln county and annexing part of Renville county subject to a favorable election

held in Renville county. It is not known what was the result of this election, but under the act Lincoln county was to be attached to Renville for judicial purposes which, of course, would result in no change of the place of holding court.

When the ninth district was created March 11, 1870, Renville county was included therein. In the middle nineties it was made a part of the twelfth district.

The first judge of the sixth judicial district was James M. McKelvey. He served from May 24, 1858 to Dec. 31, 1864, but never held court within the boundaries of the county. A number of Renville county cases during his term of office were heard at St. Peter.

The first term of court within the county was held by Judge Horace Austin at the second story of the Dakota House in Beaver Falls in September, 1868. The first court house was not built until 1872. It was of stone and was combined with the county jail; the entire cost of the structure not exceeding \$2,000.

The Hon. Horace Austin became judge of the Sixth judicial district Jan. 1, 1865, and held court in Renville county three and one-half years later and in the autumn of 1869. He was followed by the Hon. M. G. Hanscomb of St. Peter Oct. 1, 1869, who occupied the bench in that district only until Dec. 31 of the same year. He, however, was appointed the first judge of the new ninth district March 11, 1870, which position he retained until Jan. 1, 1877. He held his first term in Renville county Sept. 6, 1870, followed by a term each fall thereafter.

His successor was E. St. Julian Cox, of St. Peter, who remained on the bench until March 22, 1882. His first term was held in the county March 19, 1878. His last term opened May 24, 1881. In the meantime, however, the Hon. D. A. Dickinson of Mankato from the sixth district presided over the term beginning Nov. 10, 1879, and the Hon. Wm. Soehren of Minneapolis from the fourth judicial district presided over the term opening Feb. 16, 1882.

On April 4, 1882, the Hon. H. D. Baldwin of Redwood Falls became judge of the ninth judicial district and held his first term of court in Renville county, May 23 of that year. He held office until Jan. 3, 1883, his last term of court opening Nov. 28, 1882.

Hon. B. F. Webber, of New Ulm, became the next incumbent, Jan. 3, 1883, and held office until some time in October, 1896. He held his first term in the county Jan. 23, 1883. He presided over court in the county the last time Oct. 27, 1896.

In the meantime the twelfth judicial district had been formed and sometime in 1896 or 1897 Renville was made a part of that district. At the time of this annexation Hon. Gorham Powers, of Granite Falls, was judge of the twelfth. He as-

sumed office Jan. 31, 1890, and died April 15, 1915, shortly after his resignation on account of ill health. His first term was held within the county May 18, 1897; his last term May 13, 1913.

Hon. G. E. Quale, of Willmar, became judge of the twelfth judicial district April 30, 1897, thereby giving the district two judges. He held his first term in Renville county May 17, 1898. Subsequently he held terms in the county Nov. 15, 1898, May 12, 1902, May 9, 1904, May 9, 1910, July 11, 1910, Nov. 10, 1913, May 11, 1914, Nov. 9, 1914, May 10, 1915, and July 12, of the same year. During the last term of office of Judge Powers he was in exceedingly bad health, which made it necessary for Judge Quale to take his place in Renville county.

The Hon. Richard T. Daly, of Renville, the successor of Judge Powers, was appointed by Gov. W. S. Hammond, Feb. 25, 1915. His first term was held at Willmar, March 15, 1915.

First Term Held in County.—The first Renville county term of court for the sixth district opened on Sept. 1, 1868. Hon. Horace Austin presiding. The grand jury consisted of the following named citizens: George Geiske, John Tracy, Clement Trettar, Russell Butler, George Berry, Walter Cleft, Judson Sealy, M. S. Spicer, Nelson C. Frazier, Willard Drury, Datis Rector, Wolfgang White, Henry Ahrens, Perry Burch, Lemuel Herbert, George McCulloch, Victor Reike, Henry Dreyer, Louis Thiele, Burt Nichols, Rufus W. Earle, Homer Smith, James W. Butler and Jerome Comstock.

George McCulloch and Russell Butler were excused, and G. P. Greene was added to the list. Rufus W. Earle was appointed foreman. O. T. Tubbs was appointed officer of the jury.

The seven cases on the court calendar were marked as follows: No. 1. George McCulloch vs. Terence Brazeil; stricken from the calendar on motion of Sam McPhail, Esq. No. 2. Terence Brazeil vs. John Tracy; marked for trial. No. 3. John O. Payne vs. E. T. Tillottson; marked for trial. No. 4. George Bowers vs. Terence Brazeil; passed. No. 5. George Bowers vs. Terence Brazeil; passed. No. 6. Terence Brazeil vs. John Tracy; for trial. No. 7. Terence Brazeil in name of wife vs. John Tracy; for trial.

On motion of Samuel McPhail, P. H. Swift, who had been admitted June 5, 1867, to the Wisconsin bar, was duly admitted to the bar of Renville county. Case (No. 4) of George Bowers vs. Terence Brazeil was called for the following morning.

Court duly opened the following morning. Joseph Preston, William Tracy, Henry Blume, Dennis O'Shea, Holder Jacobus, Walter Rea, John Dagen, Frank Hall, Carl Holtz, Christian Sperber, C. Rich, James Gaffney, Henry Timms and R. R. Corey were excused from further

attendance as petit jurors at that term. Case (No. 4) of *George Bowers vs. Terrence Brazeil* was dismissed. Case (No. 5) of *George Bowers vs. Terrence Brazeil* was called and the following jury empaneled: Joseph Dean, F. Blume, Magner Johnson, James Bureh, Joseph Le Baron, Franz Smith, George Bureh, Patrick Ryan, Henry Seely, William Phelps, John A. Bush and A. D. Corey. George Bowers, the plaintiff, and George McCulloch were sworn as witnesses for the plaintiff and the defense rested. The case was argued by P. H. Swift for the defendant and E. St. Julien Cox for the plaintiff. John D. White was sworn as officer of the jury. Cases 6 and 7 were dismissed. In the afternoon the jury brought in a verdict of "Guilty" in the case of *Bowers vs. Brazeil*. As the case was a civil one, the reader wonders of what the defendant was "guilty," and what was the result of the verdict.

The first indictment of which there is any record in the minutes is that against Jeremiah P. O'Shea, Sept. 7, 1870. He was bound over to the next term.

No court records appear from the September term of 1868 to the September term of 1870.

Murder Cases.—Like "the annals of the poor," the list of serious crimes in Renville county is brief. Whether this happy state of affairs be due to the inherent lawabiding character of its people, or to the well-known vigilance of its police officers, or, what is more likely, to the feeling of contentment among its people, "their wants but few, their wishes all confined"—the fact remains that crime is perhaps the only crop that does not grow abundantly on this fertile prairie.

The following cases are related to show that there is some foul seed, however, among the grain and that the weeding-out process is not yet complete.

In 1882 the grand jury indicted Andreas Anderson, living in Henryville, for the murder of his wife, Caroline. It appears from the testimony of witnesses that Anderson, on the afternoon of February 22, attempted to shoot his wife, but that the shotgun was taken from him and the load fired into the air by his daughter; that soon after he stabbed her with a pocket knife, from which wounds she died five days later; and that upon capture by a neighbor he had confessed to the deed.

At the trial an attempt was made to show that he was insane, but the jury found him guilty of murder in the second degree and he was sentenced to Stillwater for life, a motion for a new trial having been dismissed. In 1891 his sentence was commuted to end August 1 of that year on the grounds that he was probably insane at the time of the crime.

In the same year that the Anderson crime was committed, a farmer named Ole Lee was found dead about sundown near

the village of Franklin. He was returning from town, whither he had hauled a load of wheat that day. When found he was lying in the road with a bullet hole in his head. William Henry Eagan, a lad of about fifteen years, was captured on the train next day near Fairfax heading for Minneapolis. He pleaded guilty to the crime and was sentenced to hard labor in state's prison for life Nov. 27, 1882, just seven days after the crime was committed. He received a full pardon Dec. 29, 1892, among the reasons given for his pardon being the fact of his extreme youth, that it was believed he committed the act in self defence, and that he plead guilty under advice of his attorney, and for the reason that the people were "very much exasperated over another murder in the community."

On April 24, 1886, Albert Reigel, in the township of Beaver Falls, shot Paul Gunderjohn, otherwise called Henry Schultz, with a shotgun, from which injury the latter died two days later. Indicted for murder, Reigel was found guilty by the jury of manslaughter in the second degree.

It appears that the two men had set out from Renville well supplied with liquor late in the afternoon; and that on the way, both being intoxicated, and while Schultz was lying in the wagon box with a gun nearby, Reigel had touched the gun and it was unexpectedly discharged.

Reigel was sentenced to confinement at hard labor at Stillwater for two years.

A sensational case that created considerable excitement at the time was the shooting at Hector of William C. White, an attorney, with a pistol in the hand of Lincoln H. Parker, on the afternoon of July 31, 1888. White died on August 11. His wife, who was a sister of Parker, had died but a short while before, and it seems that the shooting was the outcome of a quarrel that arose between the two men concerning her. Parker had just arrived on the train that day and the affray occurred at the post office a short while after. The jury acquitted Parker "by reason of insanity."

Charles Howey, a transient farm laborer, was found dead near a livery barn at Bird Island, Jan. 30, 1903. A coroner's inquest held a few days later brought in a verdict of death caused by "heart failure due to alcoholism."

At the inquest it developed that Howey had been seen on that day with a large roll of money, amounting to not less than one hundred dollars. When he was picked up in the snow the only money found on his person was a silver dollar and a twenty-five cent piece was discovered nearby imbedded in the melted snow and ice. Abrasions on the skin on forehead and nose and a pool of blood in the snow aroused the suspicion of many that he had been foully dealt with in order to secure his money.

When, after the jury's verdict, preparations were made to bury the body, an injunction was secured against the burial and another inquest was held about ten days later. Examination of the vital organs showed evidence of inflammation in the region of the brain and a fatty degeneration of the heart. The coroner's jury decided that his death came by rupture of the valves of the heart.

Considerable excitement was engendered during the progress of the case, although no evidence of foul play was found. It seems likely, however, that robbery was committed.

William Olson, a transient laborer, was shot in a holdup in a box car at Bird Island, Sept. 4, 1913. With two other laborers he was aroused from sleep and his money demanded. Details of the affair are lacking except that Olson was shot twice from the effects of which he died a short while later. Night watchmen at the depot followed a retreating figure, but he escaped in the darkness. The murderer has never been apprehended.

On Saturday morning, August 5, 1911, the county seat was stirred by the news of one of the most terrible tragedies in the history of the county. At the home of William Wolff, in the east end of Olivia, lay three dead bodies—father and daughter, and the son of a former neighbor—mute but compelling evidence of the night's horror. Beyond the immediate comprehension of the mind—so appalling were its aspects to the townspeople the calamity seemed like some terrible nightmare which could not, perforce, be driven from the mind. Father, honest in life and generous, the afternoon of life suddenly changed to night; daughter, springtime's flower cut down by Time's relentless sickle; youth, so heated in passion, now so cold in death. Misfortune never wore more sombre hue.

At about one o'clock Saturday morning, Mr. and Mrs. Wolff had been awakened by the cries of the daughter, Cora, who occupied an adjoining room upstairs. The father immediately proceeded to the girl's room while the mother hastened to light a lamp. Hearing the report of a revolver, the latter hurried out of the house and summoned the sheriff, the county jail being only a few blocks distant. Together with the village marshal they proceeded to the bedroom, only to find the door closed and locked. Two shots rang out and the officers believed they were being fired upon. Forcing the door they entered the room. Three dead bodies met their dumfounded gaze. Mr. Wolff's body had fallen against the door, that of Cora lay at the other end of the room, and across her body that of Edward Corey.

Physicians located three bullets in the body of the father, two in that of the daughter, and two in Corey's breast. At the inquest held the jury's verdict was that

William and Cora Wolff had been shot and killed by Edward Corey and that the latter had met death at his own hands.

In commenting on the motive for the crime, the Olivia Times relates the following: "It seems clear that young Corey was actuated to commit the crime by a desperate love for the girl. It appears he became infatuated with her some time ago and, although she tried repeatedly to avoid him, he continued to force his attentions upon her. They were reared in the same neighborhood and saw much of each other, but it appears she never encouraged him in his wooing or returned his affection. While attending school at Mankato last winter she received a visit from him, and at that time she gave him to understand she did not regard him as a lover. On the day before the murder he had prepared to leave town, intending to go to Montevideo, where he was offered a position. He left his father's home, two miles south of town, in the morning and after coming to town called at the Wolff home, presumably to say goodbye to Miss Cora. She refused to see him and Mr. Wolff ordered him away. Whether he made any threats at this time is not known for a certainty but his actions were such as to alarm Miss Wolff, for shortly afterward she went to see Sheriff Vick and informed him she was afraid Ed would do her harm. Mr. Vick hunted up Ed, who was still in town, and advised him to stay away from the Wolff place, and threatened him with arrest should he repeat his visits there. Ed promised to do as advised, saying that he intended leaving town that day. He did leave, but it appears he went to Hector, where he remained during the afternoon, boarding the westbound evening passenger train. It is supposed he came as far as Bird Island, as he is reported as having been seen at both Hector and Bird Island that evening, and that he walked from Bird Island to Olivia during the night. Upon arriving at the Wolff home he took off his shoes, leaving them upon the porch, and by means of a key which he had secured in some way, he gained entrance to the house. Just what his intention was in going into the house cannot, of course, be known, but it is altogether likely that his mad love for the girl rendered him temporarily insane and that his only thought was to do away with her."

"Both the Wolff and Corey families are old and respected residents of this community and are numbered among our best people. Both are sorely tried by the terrible affliction that has come upon them and are deserving of heartfelt sympathy."

Appeals From District Court for Renville County.—The first appeal taken from the District Court for Renville County was Jewell vs. Weed et al. and is of special interest, due to its illustration of early conditions. At that time (1871) Renville had no permanent county seat and Beaver

Falls had been designated as the temporary seat of government. Certain enterprising citizens of that community procured the enactment of a statute authorizing a bond issue of \$2,000 to construct a county jail and designating Beaver Falls as the county seat. This same act provided that the bond issue should be voted upon at the next town meeting upon notice from the county auditor. There were at the time thirteen township organizations in the county. It appears that in order to procure the passage of the act and the subsequent bond issue the aforesaid enterprising citizens of Beaver Falls kept all knowledge of their activity from reaching the western and northern portions of the county. Only two of the thirteen townships were notified of the proposal to issue bonds at the next town election and as a consequence the issue was authorized and Beaver Falls became the permanent county seat. This action was brought by certain outlying taxpayers to declare the election null and void, claiming the enactment of the law and the bond election to have been fraudulently and secretly accomplished. The Supreme Court held that no matter how unfair the actions of the Beaver Falls citizens were they were not fraudulent because the election complied with the requirements of the statute and the court had no power to inquire into the motives of the legislature or the sponsors of the bill in obtaining its passage. This case is reported in 18 Minn. 247.

The next case appealed was Donahue vs. Ladd (31 Minn. 244) in 1883, relating to adverse claims in a lien on realty tried before Judge Webber. The Supreme Court sustained him in his findings. The attorneys were C. H. Benton for appellant and Peck & Little for the respondent. This was followed by Van Meeter vs. Knight, 32 Minn. 205, relating to a mortgage foreclosure tried before Judge Webber in 1884. The attorneys were Peck & Little and Crass, Hicks & Carlton. Judgment was affirmed. In 1885 appeal was taken from the judgment of M. O. Little, Esquire, acting as referee in the case of Kellogg vs. S. N. Olson, 34 Minn. 103. The judgment was affirmed. The attorneys were Aretander & Quale; Stringer & Seymour.

In the next case at the same term the Supreme Court failed for the first time in the history of the county to entirely agree with the trial judge. The verdict of the jury was modified to the extent of allowing plaintiff items plainly due him and the court exercised its discretion and denied a new trial on condition that defendants' stipulate to allow the items referred to above. In this case, Ladd vs. Newell et al., 34 Minn. 107, the attorneys were C. H. Benton; Hart & Brewer.

After a lull of three years an appeal was taken in the case of German-American Bank of Hastings vs. White, 38 Minn. 471

(1888). The trial judge was Webber and the Supreme Court remanded the case for modification of judgment, striking out an allowance of \$80 in damages claimed to be excessive. The attorneys were S. & O. Kipp; Stringer & Seymour.

No cases were appealed from this date to 1892, when Dean vs. County Commissioners, 50 Minn. 232, went up and was reversed and remanded. The attorneys were F. R. Allen, Thomas E. Boylan and R. T. Daly.

In 1895 the county commissioners brought suit against the Bank of Fairfax to recover a deposit of several thousand dollars. The plaintiffs won and the defendants appealed. Judgment was affirmed. County Commissioners vs. Gray, 61 Minn. 242. The attorneys were H. W. Childs, George B. Edgerton and S. R. Miller; McClelland & Tift.

The following year a very interesting case went up, involving a contest of the vote taken at a county seat removal election. It was proposed at the election to remove the county seat to Olivia from Beaver Falls. Those voting for removal numbered 2,219, those voting against removal numbered 1,780, and there were 68 votes that could not be read. The trial court in the case of Smith vs. Board of County Commissioners, 64 Minn. 16, held that the vote of removal, being over 55 per cent of the sum total of 1,780 and 2,219, the county seat should be removed to Olivia. The statute covering the matter required that 55 per cent of all votes cast on the question must favor removal or the question is lost. As a consequence the Supreme Court reversed the lower court and held that the 68 unintelligible votes should have been added to the two sums above mentioned, thereby bringing the percentage of favorable votes below 55 and the county seat remained at Beaver Falls. Attorneys for contestants were Thomas E. Boylan, John Lind and G. T. Christianson; for the county S. R. Miller. County Attorney George W. Somerville, Lyndon O. Smith and A. J. Volstead.

From this point on the affairs of litigation in the county became much more frequent, several cases a year at times going to the Supreme Court. Following is given a brief outline of appealed cases up to the present time:

1896. Adamek vs. Plano Manufacturing Company, 64 Minn. 304. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, M. A. Spooner and S. A. Flaherty; McClelland & Tift. 1896. State vs. Iago, 66 Minn. 231. Reversed and new trial granted. Attorneys, McClelland & Tift and R. T. Daly; H. W. Childs and George B. Edgerton. 1896. Ramsland vs. Roste, 66 Minn. 129. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, R. T. Daly and C. A. Fosness; McClelland & Tift. 1897. Holden vs. Great Western Elevator Company, 69 Minn. 527. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, John A. Dalzell and Koon, Whelan & Ben-

net; Baldwin & Patterson and E. E. Harriott, 1898. Altman & Layton Company vs. O'Dowd, 73 Minn. 58. Judgment affirmed in part. Attorneys, Charles G. Laybourn; R. T. Daly. This was the first appealed case tried before Judge Powers. 1900. Bloemendal vs. Albrecht, 79 Minn. 304. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Ed. H. Huebner; J. M. Freeman. 1900. State ex rel. Brown vs. Butler et al., 81 Minn. 103. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, McClelland & Tift and Childs, Edgerton & Wickwire; A. V. Rieke, George W. Somerville and Lynson A. Smith. This was another election contest for removal of the county seat to Bird Island. Removal was lost, due to failure to give the required notice. 1901. Creamery Company vs. Lanning, 83 Minn. 19. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Erick L. Winje; G. T. Christianson. 1901. State ex rel. Olson vs. County Commissioners, 83 Minn. 65. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Frank Clague and A. V. Rieke; Eric L. Winje. 1901. State vs. Larson, 83 Minn. 124. Judgment reversed. Attorneys, A. J. Volstead, E. L. Winje, Robert Jamison and Cobb & Wheelwright; A. V. Rieke, county attorney, and W. C. McDowell. 1901. Evenson vs. Keystone Company, 83 Minn. 164. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, George S. Grimes; L. H. Schellbach and A. J. Volstead. 1901. Blume vs. Scheer, 83 Minn. 409. Judgment reversed. Attorneys, A. V. Rieke and Somerville & Olson; Baldwin & Howard, John Dalzell and W. A. McDowell. The defendant had charged the plaintiff with having whipped her husband, resulting in his death. The plaintiff sued for defamation of her character and obtained a verdict for \$550, which was erroneously reduced to \$100 by the trial court. 1901. United States Investment Corporation vs. Ulrickson, 84 Minn. 14. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, George Cudhie and Olson & Johnson; James D. Shearer. 1901. McGinty vs. Kelly, 85 Minn. 117. Dismissed, affirming action of District Court. Attorneys, S. R. Miller and F. C. Irwin; John J. Shoregge. 1902. Fort Dearborn Bank of Chicago vs. Security Bank of Renville, 87 Minn. 81. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Daly & Barnard; A. J. Volstead and W. A. McDowell. 1903. Keystone Company vs. Howe, 89 Minn. 256. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Daly & Barnard; George S. Grimes. 1903. Chairman Board of Health, Village of Buffalo Lake, vs. County Commissioners, 89 Minn. 402. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Frank Murray, county attorney; R. H. McClelland and C. M. Tift. 1903. Barkey vs. Johnson, 90 Minn. 23. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, J. J. Shoregge and J. W. Willis. 1904. State ex rel. Olson vs. Leindecker, 91 Minn. 277. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, B. H. Bowler; Daly & Barnard. 1904. Kubesh vs. Hanson, 93 Minn. 259. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys J. M. Freeman; J. J. Shoregge. 1904. Davis vs. Kuck, 93 Minn. 26. Judg-

ment affirmed. Attorneys, Bowers & Howard; J. M. Freeman. 1904. Swenson vs. Village of Bird Island, 93 Minn. 336. Judgment reversed. Attorneys, W. M. Bahcock; B. H. Bowler. 1905. State ex rel. Kellgen vs. McMahon, 94 Minn. 532. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys Parsons & Bowler; Frank Murray and Thomas H. Quinn. 1905. Welsh vs. Brainerd, 95 Minn. 234. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, John Lind and A. Ueland; John A. Dalzell and W. A. McDowell. 1905. Heins vs. County Commissioners, 96 Minn. 188. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Frank Murray, county attorney; Lyndon A. Smith and Lancaster & McGee. 1906. Loyd vs. Simons, 97 Minn. 315. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, F. R. Allen, A. B. Darelus and S. P. Child; John J. McHale and A. V. Rieke. 1906. Murphy vs. Renner, 99 Minn. 348. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, John Lind, A. V. Rieke and W. A. McDowell; Daly & Barnard. 1907. Carlson vs. Headline, 100 Minn. 327. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, J. M. Freeman and Daly & Barnard; Parsons & Bowler. 1907. State ex rel. Matson, vs. Powers, 102 Minn. 509. Discharged in favor of Powers, Judge, writ of mandamus. Attorneys, J. J. Shoregge; Daly & Barnard. 1908. Baumgartner vs. Hodgdon, 105 Minn. 22. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Parsons & Bowler; Daly & Barnard and Frank Murray. 1908. Bowler vs. Renville County, 105 Minn. 26, was tried in Hennepin county before Brooks, Judge. It was an action for an unpaid balance on a drainage contract with the county. The balance claimed was for extras put in at the direction of the county surveyor. The court held that the county surveyor had no authority to bind the county for extras and that his acceptance of the completed work did not make the county liable for the extras incorporated at his direction. The judgment was affirmed by the Supreme Court. Attorneys, W. M. Jerome and Parsons & Bowler; Frank Murray, county attorney, and J. M. Freeman. 1908. State vs. Mattson, 105 Minn. 63. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Edward T. Young, attorney general, Frank Murray and Barnard & Daly; J. J. Shoregge. 1908. State vs. Mattson, 105 Minn. 164. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Edward T. Young, attorney general, Frank Murray and Barnard & Daly; J. J. Shoregge. 1908. Stevenson vs. Murphy, 106 Minn. 243. Judgment reversed. Attorneys, J. M. Freeman; Bert O. Lee. 1909. Peavey vs. Greer et al., 108 Minn. 212. Remanded and judgment reduced. Attorneys, A. V. Rieke and H. L. Hayden; C. T. Howard and Daly & Barnard. 1909. State vs. McGuire, 109 Minn. 88. Reversed, holding proceedings to widen county ditch void without notice to adjoining and interested owners. Attorneys, C. A. Fosness; Frank Murray, county attorney, and Daly & Barnard. 1910. Pott vs. Hanson, 109 Minn. 416. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, W. E. Dampier; Daly

& Barnard and N. L. Erickson. 1910. *Oppegard vs. County Commissioners*, 110 Minn. 300. Judgment reversed. Attorneys, Daly & Barnard; Robert K. Stuart and J. M. Freeman. 1910. *Snyder vs. Crescent Milling Company*, 111 Minn. 235. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, A. V. Rieke, A. V. Hamrum and Daly & Barnard; George F. Gage. 1910. *Town of Martinsburg vs. Butler*, 112 Minn. 1. Judgment affirmed in part. Attorneys, A. L. Young; J. M. Freeman. 1910. *Renville County vs. City of Minneapolis*, 112 Minn. 487. Tried before Holt, Judge, in Hennepin county. Attorneys, Rieke & Hamrum and W. A. McDowell; Frank Healy and Clyde R. White for city of Minneapolis. 1911. *State vs. McGuire*, 113 Minn. 281, before Judge Quale. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, L. D. Barnard; C. A. Fosness. 1911. *Richardson vs. Richardson*, 114 Minn. 12. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, John A. Dalzell; Rieke & Hamrum and Daly & Barnard. 1911. *Richardson vs. Richardson*, 114 Minn. 516. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, John A. Dalzell; Rieke & Hamrum. 1911. *Friezen vs. Byers*, 115 Minn. 540. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, George F. Gage and J. F. Byers; J. M. Freeman. 1912. *Haubrich vs. Haubrich*, 118 Minn. 394. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, L. E. Utley, C. A. Fosness and Alfred K. Fosness; Frank Murray, J. B. Baker, Lyndon A. Smith, C. L. Hilton and E. T. Young. 1913. *State ex rel. Sagness vs. Hawk Creek Telephone Company*, 120 Minn. 395. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Daly & Barnard; J. M. Freeman. 1913. *Oppegard vs. County Commissioners*, 120 Minn. 443. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Daly & Barnard; J. M. Freeman. 1912. *Parks vs. Byrne*, 120 Minn. 519. Quayle, Judge. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, J. M. Freeman; Homer Morris. 1912. *Parks vs. Byrne*, 120 Minn. 519. Quayle, Judge. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, J. M. Freeman; Homer Morris. 1912. *Orth vs. Township of Norfolk*, 120 Minn. 530. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, J. M. Freeman; Mundy & Baker and John A. Dalzell. 1913. *School District Hector vs. School District Renville*. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Rieke & Hamrum; O. A. Allen and J. M. Freeman. 1914. *Hoffman Motor Truck Company vs. John Erickson et al.*, 124 Minn. 279. Judgment affirmed. Attorneys, Daly & Barnard; F. W. Murphy and Thomas Kneeland. 1914. *Penhall vs. Minnesota State Medical Association*, 126 Minn. 323. Judgment reversed. Attorneys, John A. Dalzell and Daly & Barnard; Durment, Moore & Oppenheimer. In this case Dr. Penhall applied in the proper manner to the State Medical Society for the assistance of its attorneys in defending a malpractice suit brought against him. This assistance was refused on the ground that the claim against the doctor accrued before the enactment of the by-laws obligating the association to furnish such defenses. Penhall, on his

own defense, lost to the claimant, and brought this action to recover expenses incurred. The trial court sustained the contentions of the association, but was reversed on appeal, the Supreme Court holding in effect that time was not made an element in its offer of defense, hence the doctor should recover inasmuch as he had complied with the other requirements.

It appears from the record of cases appealed from Renville county courts to the State Supreme Court that there have been 11 reversals and 49 affirmances. This indicates that the county in the past has been very fortunate in securing men possessing a high order of judicial mind to fill the important office of district judge.

The late Gorham Powers, judge, had only seven cases reversed out of a total of forty-three appealed, which is a remarkable record, hardly equaled by any district judge sitting in the entire state, past or present.

Municipal Court.—The only municipal court in Renville county was established at Renville, when that village filed its charter for a city government with the register of deeds, Jan. 17, 1906. C. N. Matson was the first municipal judge, holding office from 1906 to 1910. Then there was a vacancy until 1913, when the present judge, R. K. Stuart, assumed office.

THE BAR.

In the early history of the county there were few practicing attorneys, consequently the greater part of the law business went to attorneys located in earlier settled districts.

The county, however, has been well supplied with quality if not quantity of legal men of brains. Indeed, it has been just that superior quality of the few men that has kept the county somewhat short in the number of resident attorneys.

Buffalo Lake, a village of some 800 persons, has had but one attorney and he lived there only three months. This indicates either that the people of that place go to other towns in the county for legal advice or that they are of such congenial and law abiding dispositions as never to feel the need of such services.

The names of the following attorneys and law firms have appeared in briefs of cases appealed from Renville county. A majority of these attorneys never lived within the county:

O. A. Allen, J. B. Baker, L. D. Barnard, B. H. Bowler, G. T. Christianson, R. T. Daly, Daly & Barnard, John A. Dalzell, J. M. Freeman, George F. Gage, A. W. Hamrum, E. E. Harriott, S. R. Miller, Frank Murray, A. V. Rieke, Rieke & Hamrum, John J. Shoregge, Robert K. Stuart.

F. R. Allen, Arcander & Quayle, W. M. Babcock, Baldwin & Howard, Baldwin & Patterson, C. H. Benton, Bowers & Howard, Thomas E. Boylan, J. F. Byers, S. R. Child, H. W. Childs, Childs, Edgerton & Wick-

wire, Frank Clague, Cobb & Wheelwright, Crass, Hicks & Carleton, George Cudhie, W. D. Dampier, A. B. Darelius, George B. Edgerton, N. L. Erickson, S. A. Flaherty, C. A. Fosness, Alfred K. Fosness, George S. Grimes, Hart & Brewer, H. L. Hayden, Frank Healy, C. L. Hilton, C. T. Howard, Ed. H. Huebner, F. C. Irwin, Robert Jamison, W. M. Jerome, Koon, Whelan & Bennett, Lancaster & McGee, Charles G. Layburn, John Lind, McClelland & Tift, R. H. McClelland, Bert O. Loe, W. A. McDowell, John J. McHale, Homer Morris, Mundy & Baker, Olsen & Johnson, Parsons & Bowler, Peck & Little, Thomas H. Quinn, James D. Scheerer, L. H. Schellbach, Lyndon A. Smith, George W. Somerville, Sommerville & Olson, M. A. Spooner, Stringer & Seymour, S. & O. Kipp, C. M. Tift, A. Ueland, L. F. Utley, A. Volstead, Clyde R. White, J. W. Willis, Eric L. Winje, Edward T. Young and A. L. Young.

Among the attorneys who have had practice within the county, two have been attorney generals, one has been governor and others have been members of Congress.

Admissions to Practice.—The first lawyer admitted to practice within the county was P. H. Swift, on motion of Samuel McPhail, Sept. 1, 1868. He had previously been admitted to practice in the Wisconsin courts. Subsequent admissions were: George H. Megquier, Sept. 6, 1870; William M. Cook, Sept. 8, 1870; M. E. Powell, Sept. 5, 1871; Moses Little, Sept. 6, 1871; David W. Thorp, Sept. 2, 1877; H. A. Libby, May 24, 1882; G. T. Christianson, May 24, 1882. In 1891 the law was changed and since that date no lawyers have been admitted by district courts. All admissions are now made on motion before the Superior court.

Among attorneys formerly residing and practicing in Renville county may be mentioned: P. H. Swift, G. T. Christianson, George H. Megquier, William F. Schoregge, J. H. Bowers, A. V. Rieke, A. U. Hanrum, William C. White, John J. Shoregge, J. M. Dorman, E. L. Vinge, Bruce Brown, B. H. Bowler, E. E. Harriott, H. C. Giltner, D. D. Williams, Charles S. Kane, William C. White and Col. Samuel McPhail.

The Present Bar.—Hector: O. A. Allen, Renville; Harold Baker, L. D. Barnard, Lawrence M. Carlson, Robert K. Stuart, Morton; John A. Dalzell, F. E. Sylvester, W. W. McGowan, Olivia; J. M. Freeman, George F. Gage, S. R. Miller, Charles N. Matson, M. J. Flaherty, Fairfax; Frank H. Hopkins, J. F. Russell, Bird Island; Frank Murray, James B. Baker.

Among the Renville county boys who have graduated from the St. Paul College of Law and the University of Minnesota, now engaged in practice outside of the county, may be mentioned: Rodney Hanson, 1914, Underwood, N. D.; Leslie H. Blacklock, 1914, St. Paul; Eugene S. George, 1915, Glenwood, Minn.; Frank Zima, 1916, Glenwood, Minn.; James McBride George, 1910, Winona, Minn.

Judicial Officers.—Lists of Renville county county attorneys, sheriffs, clerks of court and the like are found elsewhere in this work. The story of the important probate cases and justice cases are beyond the scope of this work. Those which were of greatest importance reached the Supreme court, and under that head are duly noted earlier in this chapter.

BIOGRAPHY.

Burton H. Bowler was born at Nininger, Minn., November 7, 1871. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bowler, took him with them to their new home near the present site of Bird Island, Minn., early in the summer of 1873. He resided at Bird Island until August, 1904, with the exception of the years 1892 to 1896, spent at school in Minneapolis. Was graduated from the Bird Island public school in 1890. Taught school in Palmyra in 1890 and 1891. Worked in the office of the Renville County Union from September, 1891, to May, 1892. Taught school in Melville in fall of 1892. Attended the Central High School of Minneapolis from December, 1892, to June, 1894, and the University of Minnesota from 1894 to 1896, when he was admitted to the bar. Practiced law at Bird Island from 1896 to 1904, when he moved to Minneapolis, where he since has practiced. He married Abbie G. Walker, of Minneapolis, in 1910. Mr. Bowler has not held or sought office, but since boyhood has been actively interested in public matters. He is a Baptist, a Mason, an active member of the Saturday Lunch Club of Minneapolis. He serves on the State Board of the Minnesota Anti-Saloon League and the Children's Home Society of Minnesota.

Harold Baker was born in Madison, Wis., 1879. He attended the public schools of Stillwater, Minn., and the Normal school at Winona, Minn. At eighteen years of age he entered the Northwestern University. He is a graduate of the St. Cloud State Normal school and the law department of the University of Minnesota. In 1913 he came to Renville and engaged in practice as a lawyer.

G. T. Christianson was born near Deerfield, Wis., Nov. 3, 1885, and died in Minnewaukan, N. D., Jan. 29, 1910. He came with his parents to western Minnesota in 1862; studied law at Iowa University, and was admitted to the bar in 1879; settled in Renville, was county attorney for Renville County, 1883-89 and 1891-93; removed to Minnewaukan in 1901, when he was president of the First National Bank.

J. M. Dorman was born in Rockbridge county, Va., 1814; was admitted to practice in 1846, came to Minnesota in 1865, living in St. Peter, New Ulm and Beaver Falls; was elected county attorney from Beaver Falls in 1870 and served several terms; removed to the village of Renville in 1881.

H. C. Giltner was born in Tompkins county, New York. From 1843 to 1860 he

lived in Wisconsin and during a part of this time served as deputy United States marshal. Before the Civil war he came to McLeod county, this state, was admitted to practice and was elected county attorney. In 1880 he settled on a farm in Martinsburg township, this county.

A. U. Hamrum was born in Camp township, this county, February 29, 1884, and here grew to manhood. He attended the public schools of his native town and of Fairfax, and in 1904 graduated from the high school at Le Sueur, Minn. For a year he taught school in District 1, Renville county. In June, 1908, he graduated from the College of Law at the University of Minnesota, was admitted to the bar, and in September opened an office in Franklin. In 1909 he became associated with A. V. Rieke under the firm name of Rieke & Hamrum, at Fairfax. In July, 1912, the office of the firm was moved to the Metropolitan Life building, Minneapolis.

Charles L. Kane was born in Green Isle, Minn., in 1869 and after finishing school went to Fairfax, October, 1889, and started the publication of the "Fairfax Crescent," the first newspaper published at that place. He removed from Fairfax in May, 1891, to undertake the practice of law and was admitted to the bar in 1896. He then returned to Fairfax to practice, remaining there until his removal to Benson in Swift county in 1899, which is his present location. He has been twice elected mayor of Benson and is enjoying a satisfactory and lucrative practice. He was married in 1911 and has two children.

William W. McGowan was born at New York City, March 12, 1840. His parents were James McGowan and Louis A. (Anderson) McGowan. He came to Minnesota September 20, 1861; served in Company I, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers and Company H, Second Minnesota cavalry; was clerk of the district court four terms, probate judge two terms and registrar of deeds one term and was admitted to the bar by examination November 22, 1911. He came to Beaver Falls September 20, 1870, and now resides at Morton.

Col. Samuel McPhail was born in Russellville, Ky., May 2, 1828, and died near Taunton, Minn., March 6, 1902. He served in the Mexican war, later coming to Minnesota, where he founded the town of Caledonia and with David Carrothers laid out the town of Beaver Falls in 1866, selling his interest in 1867 to William C. Essler. He was admitted to the bar in 1867 and was one of the attorneys in the first case tried before the district court in the county. Some time after selling his interests in Beaver Falls he removed to Redwood Falls, a few miles across the river. He served in the early part of the Civil war as captain of scouts in Missouri and in the Sioux war of 1862-3 as colonel in the First Minnesota cavalry.

George H. Megquier was born September 20, 1844, in Maine, and when eight years old moved with his parents to Bangor. In 1855 they migrated to Eureka, Ill. After graduating in 1862 from the college of that place he enlisted in Company D, 108th Illinois infantry; he was promoted to lieutenant; afterwards served on the staff of Generals Baird and A. J. Smith, until the war closed. In the fall of 1865 he entered the Cleveland Law University, graduating in 1866 and the next year came to Minnesota. He married Laura Tillotson in 1869, and commenced the practice of law at Beaver Falls; was elected judge of probate in 1873 and the following year was chosen county attorney and superintendent of schools. In 1878 he removed to Bird Island.

August V. Rieke was born at Cairo, Minn., August 15, 1865, son of George and Sophia (Schweer) Rieke. He received his early education in the public schools of his locality and later attended the Curtiss Business College at Minneapolis. He lived on the home farm until twenty-two years of age and then went into the grain business and later followed the farm implement business at Fairfax, Minn. In 1893 he entered the law office of John A. Daltzell, of Fairfax, and was admitted to the bar February 14, 1898, and has since engaged in the practice of law. From 1899 to 1903 he was county attorney for Renville county and from 1903 to 1907 a member of the state senate. He is now practicing law at Minneapolis.

J. F. Russell was born in Belle Plaine, Minn., January 6, 1858. He was educated in the common schools; taught school in Scott, Le Sueur and Sibley counties; read law in the office of O'Leary & Hagar at Henderson, Minn.; admitted to the bar in 1881; practiced law at Belle Plaine, Minn., from March, 1883, until May, 1886, and was village attorney of Belle Plaine from April, 1884, to May, 1886, when he resigned. In May, 1886, he removed to Henderson, Minn., where he formed a partnership with S. & O. Kipp, the firm being known as S. & O. Kipp & Russell. He was appointed village attorney of Henderson in 1886 and served until March, 1887, when he left Henderson and returned to Belle Plaine. He removed to Fairfax in 1890, where he has since been engaged in the practice of law. In 1898 he was elected village attorney. In 1884 he married Ellen Donovan, of Le Sueur county, and has two sons living.

William C. White was born in New York in 1846; came to Minnesota in 1872; engaged in teaching three years; was admitted to the bar in 1875; superintendent of schools, Sibley county, for two years; settled in Hector in 1879, where he practiced law until his death, August 11, 1888.

D. D. Williams was born in Kane county, Illinois, and was brought to Judson, Blue Earth county, this state, in 1855. After

leaving school in 1877 he read law at Madelia, taught school a year, and then resumed the study of law until 1879, when he was admitted to the bar. He began practicing at Bird Island in the spring of 1880.

John J. and William F. Schoregge both practiced law in Renville county, the former at Olivia and the latter at Fairfax. They were the sons of Dr. Henry Schoregge, who was born in Beilfeldt, Province of Westphalia, Germany, during the time it was under the control and domination of Napoleon. Casper Schoregge, father of Dr. Henry Schoregge, was with Napoleon's army thirteen years, and was in command of a regiment until Napoleon's retreat from Moscow. After his return he became commander of the "Black Hussars." Later, as the result of many wounds, he was retired and given the Iron Cross. Dr. Henry Schoregge finished his education at Heidelberg. He was married at some point on the Rhine (probably Frankfurt or Bingen) about 1840 to a daughter

of the Laydner family. In 1850 he came to Boston. His oldest son, John J., came to Minnesota for his health in 1867 and in 1870 the entire family, consisting of the parents and five children, John J., Charles, William F., Helen and Anna, settled in Beaver Falls, this county. John J. Schoregge married Mary Langes, and was admitted to the bar at Glencoe, settling in Olivia in 1890. He died November 17, 1912. Little is known of William F. He came from Glencoe to Fairfax, was a most brilliant lawyer, but of unfortunate inclinations, and finally drifted west.

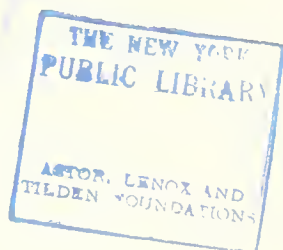
Morgan J. Flaherty was born at St. Cloud, Minn., Feb. 11, 1889; attended parochial and public schools at St. Cloud, graduating from high school at St. Cloud in 1907; graduated from St. Cloud Normal in 1908; taught school two years; graduated from St. Paul College of Law in June, 1913, and practiced law in Duluth one and a half years immediately before coming to Olivia in July, 1915.

Richard T. Daly, judge of the twelfth judicial district, was born on a farm near Watertown, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, in 1863, one of the family of ten children, five boys and five girls, born to T. G. and Martha (Reynolds) Daly, who when he was ten years of age brought him to the township of Mapleton, Blue Earth county, this state. He attended district school and took two terms at the Mankato Normal school, then studied law with William Plymat at Mapleton, and afterward entered the office of Freeman & Pfau at Mankato, being admitted to the bar at Mankato on December 31, 1887. He taught school in Nebraska until the summer of 1890, and in September of the same year he located at Renville, Renville county, Minnesota, and commenced the practice of law. The same year he was elected county attorney of Renville county and served one term. In 1898 he was appointed county attorney to fill the place of Captain S. R. Miller, the incumbent, who was with his company in the Spanish-American war. He was appointed a member of the State Board of Equalization by Governor Johnson in 1905 and served until 1907, at which time he declined reappointment. He has held numerous village offices and was a member of the school board for ten years preceding his going upon the bench. In the early part of February, 1915, Judge Gorham Powers, who had been ill for some time, resigned and on the twenty-fifth day of February, 1915, Governor W. S. Hammond appointed Mr. Daly to succeed Judge Powers. On March 15, 1915, he opened his first term of court in Wilbuar. Judge Daly was married to Lillie J. Johnson September 16, 1896, and has three children, two boys and one girl.

Lynas D. Barnard, county attorney of Renville county, was born in Kinimikinnic, near River Falls, Wis., September 14, 1862, son of John and Frances (Vandercook) Barnard, and descended from early New England stock, the founders of the American branch having come from England to Vermont, where they participated in the stirring events of the Colonial wars and had their part in the making of a great nation. Lynas Barnard received his early training in the common schools in Kinimikinnic and later attended the State

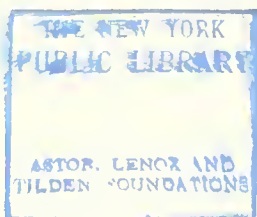


R. T. DALY



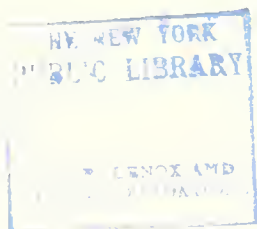


L. D. BARNARD





CHARLES N. MATSON



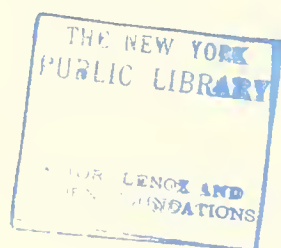
Normal school at River Falls, Wis., to which he returned from Renville to complete his course. He subsequently taught school for two years in Renville county and after that spent one year in field work as a civil engineer. Then he studied law with James Schoonaker, of St. Paul, one year and with John W. White, of St. Paul, about one and a half years, after which he entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, graduating in 1889. As partner of W. H. McDonald he practiced in St. Paul until 1897, when he entered into partnership with R. T. Daly, an attorney at Renville, under the firm name of Daly & Barnard, which continued until Mr. Daly went on the district bench in 1915. Mr. Barnard has taken an active interest in political affairs, and has served the Republican party in many ways as committeeman, delegate and the like. In 1911 he was elected county attorney of Renville county and re-elected in 1913 and 1915. He has done excellent service and has won wide approval. In addition to his law practice he devotes much of his time to his fine stock farm in partnership with his late law partner, Judge R. T. Daly, north of Renville, making a specialty of feeding stock for the market. Mr. Barnard is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company of Renville. He is a member of many fraternities, such as the A. F. & A. M., the I. O. O. F., the B. P. O. E., of St. Paul, and the M. W. A. Mr. Barnard was united in marriage to Annie Turner, daughter of George W. Turner, who operated the first engine on a regular run of the Great Northern Railway to Willmar. He later became master mechanic of the Great Northern at St. Paul. Mr. and Mrs. Barnard have two children: George and Frank.

Charles Newel Matson, Olivia, attorney, and judge of probate of Renville county, was born in New York City January 2, 1856, the son of John L. Matson and Eliza (Jackson) Matson. The grandfather of John L. Matson, Nels Matson, came from Norway to the United States and for many years lived in Boston, Mass. John L. Matson and Eliza Jackson Matson died some years ago, and of their children only Mrs. Peter Haan, of Renville, and Charles N. Matson survive them. Judge Matson was educated at Union University and Columbia Law School and was admitted in New York in 1878 to to practice as an attorney and counselor at law and for many years practiced law at Owego, N. Y. In 1888 he was appointed a liquidator in the New York Custom House and in 1894 removed to Chicago, where he became associated with the firm of N. Matson. After the death of N. Matson the business was sold and in 1897 he came to Renville, Minn., and was admitted to practice in this state and became associated with the late G. T. Christianson. This firm was dissolved when Mr. Christianson removed to North Dakota in 1902, and since that time Mr. Matson practiced law in Renville until elected to the office of Judge of Probate of this county. Mr. Matson was elected the first judge of the Municipal Court of the city of Renville and held that office until 1910, when he was elected judge of the probate court of this county, which office he now holds.

He belongs to all the Masonic bodies, is an Odd Fellow, an Elk, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, honorary Scholastic Fraternity, and of Alpha Delta Phi. He is a communicant of St. John's Episcopal Church at Olivia.

Samuel R. Miller, attorney, Olivia, was born in Mansfield, Ohio, January 17, 1841. He is of Scotch ancestry, his father, Dr. S. G. Miller, and his mother, Nancy J. (McEwen) Miller, being children of Scotch parents who emigrated to this country previous to the Revolutionary war, the father's people settling in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and the mother's in Center county of same state. Mr. Miller's maternal grandfather, Capt. Francis McEwen, served during the Revolutionary war and after its close was in command of a company acting as a guard to the government engineers who laid out the National Pike from Washington through the Virginias. He lacked but eight days of rounding out a century at the time of his death. Mr. Miller had four sisters and four brothers, making a family of nine in all: one brother, Geo. F. Miller, of Minneapolis, and three sisters survive at this date.

Samuel R. Miller received his early education in the district schools, one year at Porters Academy, and two years at Vermillion College, afterwards Wooster University, Wooster, Ohio. In April, 1861, he enlisted in Company H Fifteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry for three months. After his discharge he went to La Grange, Indiana, and accepted the position of superintendent of the city school, but in July, 1862, resigned his position and re-enlisted in Company C, 100th Indiana Volunteer Infantry for three years or during the war, and thereunder served until the close of the war. He participated in over forty general engagements, including the battle of Bentonville, where Gen. Joseph E. Johnson surrendered to General Sherman. For one year and eleven months he was in command of the "Scouts" doing secret service with the army of the Mississippi, reporting and attached to General W. T. Sherman's headquarters. He was captured twice and both times managed to escape. He held the position of First Sergeant until the close of the Vicksburg campaign, when he was commissioned a lieutenant. He taught school in 1865-6 and then began the study of law in the offices of "Col. Billy Willson" of Lafayette, Indiana, where he remained until fall of 1868, when he entered the University of Michigan and graduated in the law department in the spring of 1871. He began practice of law at Lake City, Minn., with Col. C. A. Wood, and was later appointed assistant postmaster at Lake City, under General Francis Seeley. He held this position until spring of 1874, when he resigned to take up practice of law in Renville county. He located at Beaver Falls, then the county seat of Renville county, in the summer of 1874, where he remained until the county seat was removed to Olivia, when he removed to the latter place and has ever since resided there. He retired from practice about 1907 on account of failure of hearing. Mr. Miller was elected and served seven or eight terms as county attorney in this county and has successfully prosecuted or defended in five of the six homicide cases tried in this county since its organization. After his retirement from active practice Mr. Miller was appointed as examiner of titles for Renville county and still holds that position, also that of court commissioner for Renville county. He was also city attorney for Olivia for some five years and president of the board of education for over twelve years. In 1897, at the request of the citizens, he organized Company H, Third Regiment Minnesota National Guard and was commissioned its captain. Thereafter





GEORGE F. GAGE

he worked for and secured the construction of the old Armory. In 1898 he organized Company H of the Fourteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry for service in the Spanish-American war, and was commissioned its captain and again entered U. S. service as such. He remained with the company until the latter part of July, 1898, when growing defective in hearing he was compelled to resign. He was a charter member of the G. A. R. Post at Delphi, Indiana, which claimed to be the second post organized. He is also a member of the Loyal Legion of this state, an organization made up exclusively of commissioned officers of the civil war. He was a member of the old Beaver Falls lodge (now not existing) I. O. O. F. and was through all its chairs. He is now associated with Olivia lodge No. 220, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Miller has been twice married: in 1892 to Jennie M. Frazer and in 1912 to Mary C. Peterson, his present wife. One son, Rockwood P. Miller and one grandson, Howard W. Miller, survive.

John McDonough Freeman, attorney, Olivia, was born in Ticonderoga, Essex county, New York, December 5, 1870, youngest of the four children of George and Mary (McDonough) Freeman. The family moved from New York to Langdon, Washington county, Minnesota, in 1883, coming two years later to Renville county where they purchased 300 acres of state land in section 14, Hector township. While this land was being broken and buildings erected thereon they rented and occupied an adjoining farm. In June, 1897, George Freeman, was injured while riding on a road grader in the performance of his duties as road overseer, which injury resulted in his death about two weeks later, June 24, 1897. John McDonough Freeman received his early education at Hector public schools. While still little more than a youth he taught winter school for three years still continuing, however, to work on his parent's farm during the agricultural season. Then he read law for two years in the office of R. T. Daly, of Renville, and in February, 1896, became connected with the office of the United States Surveyor General at St. Paul, resigning August, 1898, having in the meantime taken a night law course at the University of Minnesota, from which he graduated June, 1898. In the fall of the same year he opened a law office at Olivia where he has since practiced. Mr. Freeman owns several farms near Olivia. He is vice-president and director of Olivia State Bank and a stockholder of the Mercantile State Bank at Minneapolis. He has always enjoyed a large law practice, and is one of the busy men of the county. He is affiliated with the Democratic party and has for many years been active in state and county politics. In the state election of 1910 he was the candidate of his party for the office of Attorney General of the State. In 1899 Mr. Freeman married Cora M. Gould, of Stillwater, Minnesota. They have four children: John G., Richard S., Alice M., and Evelyn M.

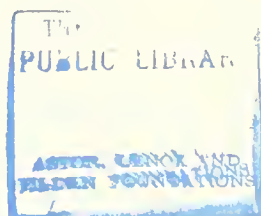
George F. Gage, attorney, Olivia, was born in Waterloo, Iowa, in 1871, son of Weston S. and Mary (Kirchner) Gage. Weston S. Gage devoted his active years to farming, took particular pride in his fine stock, made a specialty of breeding a good grade of cattle, swine and horses, attained a considerable degree of success, and now lives in retirement at Fulda, Minn.

In the family, aside from George F., there were two children, Arthur J., a banker, hotelkeeper and liveryman, at Fulda, and Lillian, a music teacher in that place. George F. Gage passed through the public schools, and then entered the College of Law, University of Minnesota, from which he graduated with the class of 1894. In July of that year he opened an office at Olivia, where he has since remained. He is a Republican in politics and from January, 1903, to January, 1911, was judge of probate of Renville county. Fraternally he is a member of the Odd Fellow and Masonic orders. Mr. Gage is an influential citizen of the village and county. He has made a success of his chosen profession, has taken an interest in many public movements and is regarded as one of the useful men of the community. He was married at Granite Falls, Minnesota, on June 24, 1896, to Lillian E. Knox, born in Cannon Falls, Minnesota, in December, 1876, daughter of A. M. and Rebecca (Hutchinson) Knox. Mr. and Mrs. Gage have two children: Ruth M. and Lucille M. Ruth M., a graduate of the Olivia high school, is attending Stanley Hall at Minneapolis. Lucille M. is a student at the Olivia high school.

Frank H. Hopkins, attorney, Fairfax, was born in Cairo township, November 7, 1877, son of Col. Charles H. Hopkins. He attended the country schools and later graduated from the Minnesota Normal and Business College at Minneapolis in 1899. Then he became a student at the College of Law, University of Minnesota, from which he graduated in 1903. He opened an office in Fairfax in November, 1903, and has practiced law there ever since. Mr. Hopkins is a popular and influential man and has always been greatly interested in public affairs. In 1906 he was nominated for the office of county attorney. In 1908 he was elected as representative to the State Legislature, being re-elected in 1910. While in the House of Representatives he was active in promoting various bills. He was chairman of the Municipal Corporation Committee and nominated Henry Rines for speaker during the session of 1911. He was also chairman of the Corporation Committee during the second session. He introduced the bill to limit to a minimum sum the license fee to sell liquor, was a great leader and expert on the Drainage Laws, and active in the work for a Public Domain bill and Blue Sky laws. He very ably assisted in getting Renville selected by the Federal Government as the Hog Cholera Experimental county. Mr. Hopkins has also been active in the public affairs of Fairfax, and has been the village attorney for two years, president of the Commercial Club for four years, and is a stockholder in the Citizens' State Bank and in the State Bank. He is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America and the senior steward in the A. F. & A. M. Mr. Hopkins is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a member of the board of trustees of that church. It is said of him: "He is an active leader in presenting education, regulation and law enforcement as a solution for the liquor question as contrasted with the prohibitory idea." As a lawyer his standing is high, but among the important cases in which he has been engaged, the one of which he is the proudest is the time when he defended his father, Col. Charles H. Hopkins against a charge of having destroyed the telephone



FRANK MURRAY



1900

wires which he had cut in order that Old Glory might wave on the streets of Fairfax on Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays.

October 19, 1905, Frank H. Hopkins was united in marriage to Estella J. Schramm, born March 7, 1882, daughter of Julius Schramm. Three children have been born to this union: Ora Beryl, born October 30, 1907; Lois Meryl, April 4, 1910; Wayne, born February 16, 1913.

Frank Murray, attorney, Bird Island, man of affairs, is widely known throughout the state of Minnesota. He was born in Medo township, Blue Earth county, this state, July 7, 1870, son of John and Honora (Virden) Murray, was reared on the home farm, passed through the schools of his neighborhood, taught school five winters, and attended the Mankato State Normal school. He read law during his spare time for several years and received a splendid training in the office of W. R. Geddes, of Mankato. Thus prepared he was admitted to the bar January 31, 1896, and opened an office at Janesville, this state. His work and personality at once attracted attention, and he was elected to such offices as township clerk, village recorder, and village attorney. He lacked but one vote of being elected county attorney of Waseca county. It was on March 15, 1900, that he came to Renville county and opened offices at Bird Island. In 1910 he formed a partnership with James B. Baker under the firm name of Murray & Baker. In Renville county, Mr. Murray continued his successful career. In the fall of 1902 he was elected county attorney and served until January 1, 1911. In the fall of 1910 he was elected to the upper house of the Minnesota state legislature, and served with credit in the senate sessions of 1911, 1912 (special) and 1913. Locally he also held a number of offices, being village recorder two years and village attorney six years. Fraternally he is a prominent member of the Knights of Columbus and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a director in the State Bank of Bird Island, the Citizens State Bank of Mahanomen, and the Mahanomen Land Co. The Frank Murray Land Co., organized in 1910, deals extensively in Minnesota, Montana and North Dakota land. Mr. Murray was married October 2, 1907, to Madeline Pratschner, born February 13, 1886, daughter of Louis and Madeline (Hansladen) Pratschner, and they have two children: Eileen, born September 2, 1908; Francis, born September 18, 1914.

John Murray, born in county Mayo, Ireland, came to America in 1850, and found employment on the Erie canal, leaving that work to take up farming, which he pursued two years in Ohio, moving from that state to Iowa, where he devoted two years to the same line of work. He then removed to Houston county, Minnesota, where he spent one year in farming, removing to Blue Earth county. December 3, 1864, he enlisted in Company F, 57th Ill. Vol. Inf., and was discharged at Louisville, Ky., July 7, 1865. He was with Sherman at Atlanta and was wounded in the hand at Nashville. He died in 1895, at the age of 73 years. His good wife Honora (Verden) Murray, died at Bird Island, February 26, 1913, at the ripe old age of 83 years. Louis Pratschner now lives at Winsted where he has been engaged in the blacksmith business for thirty years. Mrs. Pratschner died September 10, 1888, at the age of twenty years.

James B. Baker, attorney, Bird Island, born in Brownton, McLeod county, Minnesota, September 15, 1882, the son of Augustus C. and Mary J. (Todd) Baker, graduated from the Brownton school in 1902, from the Montevideo (Minn.) high school in 1905, and from the College of Law, University of Minnesota, June 11, 1908. He was admitted to the bar June 15, of the same year and formed a partnership with Frank Murray, of Bird Island, under the firm name of Murray & Baker. For four years he was village attorney. In 1910 he came before the primaries as an aspirant to the office of judge of probate, and in 1914 he was before the primaries as a candidate for the office of county attorney. He is a stockholder in the Citizens State Bank of Mahanomen and in the Mahanomen Land Co. Mr. Baker was married March 16, 1910, to Mathilda B. Putzier, born September 2, 1888, the daughter of Fred and Mathilda Putzier. They have two children: Dorothy L., born October 29, 1911; Bradford J., born March 27, 1913. Augustus C. Baker, born December 20, 1837, in Ravenna, Ohio, married Mary J. Todd, born July 29, 1842. Mr. Baker located in Sibley county, in 1858, operated a general store at New Auburn until 1878 when he removed to Brownton, McLeod county where he pursued a business in grain and general merchandise until 1890 when he retired. He now lives in Brownton. Fred Putzier married Mathilda Martin. Both are now 50 years of age. Mr. Putzier has been with the C. M. & St. P. R. R. in Bird Island for twenty years. He has served on the village council.

Oscar A. Allen, attorney, Hector, was born in Red Wing, Minnesota, June 20, 1863, son of C. J. Anderson and Christine (Peterson) Anderson, natives of Sweden, who came to America as young people, and after living in Indiana for a while, located at Red Wing, this state, in 1850. The father was a stone mason by trade and while in Red Wing engaged in draying. Later he moved on to a farm near Cannon Falls and became a successful and influential farmer. In 1887 he retired from farming and moved to Maple Plain in Hennepin county where he is still living. The mother died in 1908. Oscar A. Allen attended the public schools of Cannon Falls and the Hauge Seminary at Red Wing one term, then entering the Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter, and graduating in 1885. During the summers of 1887-88 he took a commercial course at the Curtiss Business College in Minneapolis. In 1885 he taught district school in Nicollet county and was principal in Grove City schools in Meeker county in 1886-87. In the fall of 1887 he was elected principal of the commercial department of Gustavus Adolphus College, at St. Peter, and was head of that department until 1899. During that time he studied law under Ex-Lieutenant Governor G. S. Ives and also took up the Sprague Correspondence Law Course of Detroit, Michigan. He passed his examinations and was admitted to the bar in 1898. The same year he opened a law office at St. Peter, Minnesota. In the spring of 1899 came to Hector where he has successfully continued his practice. Since 1900 he has been largely engaged in real estate business, being a leading figure in the Hector Land Company. Mr. Allen has held many local offices. He was president of the village council in 1906, when the village hall was built, and is now president of the board of education, of which he has been a member

since 1901. He is a stockholder in the Hector Telephone Exchange. Fraternally he is secretary of Hector Lodge No. 158, A. F. & A. M., of which he served two years as Master. He is also a member of the State Bar Association. The family faith is that of the English Lutheran church at St. Peter. Mr. Allen was married June 18, 1890, to Anna C. Johnson, of Stockholm, Wis. They have one child, Florence C., who was born June 21, 1894, graduated from the Hector high school, took the academic course at the University of Minnesota and the home-makers course at the Stout Institute at Menomonie, Wisconsin, and is now a junior in the Domestic Science and Agricultural Departments of the University of Minnesota.

John A. Dalzell, attorney, Morton, was born in Waddington, New York, October 14, 1861. His father, Andrew Dalzell, a native of Ireland, was a produce dealer and farmer in New York and died in 1896, at the age of seventy-four. His mother, Isabel (Ricalton) Dalzell, is still living in Waddington at the age of eighty-two. John A. Dalzell was graduated from the State Normal Training school, Potsdam, New York, on June 29, 1880. June 16, 1884 he was graduated from Hamilton College at Clinton, New York. He was third man in his class, stood first in mathematics, took first prize in physics, held the scholarship medal in languages, was prize speaker of his class, a leader on the baseball field and the football gridiron, and attained membership in the D. K. E. Another member of his class was George W. Hinman, formerly owner and editor of the Chicago Inter-Ocean, and now president of Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio. Among the distinguished alumni of Hamilton college may be mentioned James Schoolcraft Sherman and Elihu Root. On November 19, 1886, Mr. Dalzell was admitted to the bar at Albany, New York, and practiced for three years at Waddington, New York. He came to Fairfax, Minnesota, in 1890, and remained for about one year, after which he moved to Gibbon where he stayed about five years. He spent eight months at Minneapolis and in March, 1898, located at Morton where he still resides.

Mr. Dalzell was elected to the state legislature in 1907 and has served two terms in that capacity. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M., at Morton, belongs to the Episcopal church. June 1, 1893, Mr. Dalzell was married to Frances Marie Phelps, of Fulton, Illinois, who died April 4, 1897, leaving one child, Madge Isabel, who died November 17, 1901, aged six years. April 24, 1901, Mr. Dalzell was married to Evelyn McConnell, daughter of Alexander and Mary (Archer) McConnell. The father was born August 4, 1831 and died February 19, 1903. He was one of the pioneer farmers of Renville county taking up a homestead on section 33, Birch Cooley township, in 1864. The mother, Mary (Archer) McConnell, was born February 18, 1831, and is living in Morton with her daughter Laura.

Lawrence M. Carlson, attorney, Renville, was born in Renville, Minnesota, November 2, 1891, the third child in a family of six children, three boys and three girls. His father, Charles F. Carlson, was born in Bergen, Norway, in 1848, came to this country in 1887, settled in Renville, was married on May 22, 1887, at Montevideo, Minnesota, to Olea Holman, who was born in Konigsvingar, Norway, in 1855, and came to this country in 1881. Law-

rence M. attended the public schools of Renville, was graduated therefrom June 4, 1909, attended the Academic College of the University of Minnesota; entered the St. Paul College of Law in September, 1912, was graduated therefrom and admitted to the bar in June, 1915, and is now engaged in the practice of law in the office of L. D. Barnard, county attorney, at Renville. He is a member of the Delta Theta Phi law fraternity and the Phi Kappa Sigma.

Robert K. Stuart, attorney, Renville, was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1877, of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His preliminary education was received in the public schools of Owen Sound, Ontario, and at the Central University of Iowa, Pella, Iowa, of which latter institution his father was for a number of years the president. He graduated from the law school of the University of Minnesota in 1905, and was awarded a post-graduate degree in 1906 by the University. He was admitted to the bar of Minnesota in 1905. He located at Sacred Heart, in Renville county, Minnesota, in the fall of 1906, where he practiced law for about four years. In 1910 he was chosen secretary, with office at Belfield, North Dakota, of the Holland-Dakota Land-bouw Compagnie, a Dutch corporation doing an extensive immigration and colonization business in western North Dakota. He was at the same time elected president of the First National Bank of Belfield, which position he held during his residence in Dakota. In September, 1912, he returned to Renville county to accept a position with the O'Connor Land Company and O'Connor Bros. State Bank of Renville, and has ever since been identified with those institutions. He was elected judge of the Renville Municipal Court in 1913.

CHAPTER XL.

RENVILLE COUNTY CHURCHES.

First Services Held in the County—The Church the First Consideration of the Pioneers—Leading Denominations—Story of the Organization, Growth, Pastors, and Work of Leading Churches Told by Clergymen and Laymen.

The church has ever been a chief consideration with the people of Renville county. Almost without exception the early settlers were of a religious turn of mind. Devout fathers of the Catholic faith brought religious consolation to the French and half-breeds living here while the county still lay in Indian territory. The name of Sacred Heart is the survival of the name given to a mission in this county by some devoted and now forgotten priest. The Protestant missionaries at Lac qui Parle and other places early preached the Gospel to Indians who roamed Renville county.

When the sturdy Germans of the Evangelical faith settled in the bottoms from Beaver Creek to the Sacred Heart, and those of the Methodist faith settled about Mud lake in Cairo township, their first thought was to hold services.

After the massacre, when the pioneers began to come back, one of the first desires was to maintain religious observances. Services were held at first in homes, later in school houses, and finally small log churches were erected.

Outside of the missions conducted for the French, Indians and half-breeds, the oldest denominations in the county are the Evangelical Association and the Methodist Episcopal. The strongest and most numerous is the Lutheran church in its various divisions. The Catholic people has some splendid churches and schools. The Moravian, the Reformed, the Congregational, the Baptist and the Episcopal churches flourish here, and there are also several churches of other denominations, some of them being independent.

It was the desire of the compilers of this chapter to include in this work, in such a

manner as to preserve it for all time, the history of every church in Renville county, past and present. To this end over a thousand letters have been sent out. For the most part pastors and members of congregations have responded nobly. A few, however, have either failed or refused to send us the desired information. In such cases, where it has been impossible to obtain the information from other sources, the omission is due to the pastors or people of the congregations themselves and not to the compilers. In some instances as many as five different letters have been sent to one pastor without result. There may be errors in some of the records here appended. This also is due to the lack of correct information by the pastors and people themselves. Every possible means has been used to give a correct and complete history of the county churches. Those who have assisted in this effort by contributing some of the splendid articles here appended deserve the thanks of their communities.

According to the census of 1870 there were then no church buildings in Renville county. There were, however, thirteen church organizations: five Methodist Episcopal, four Lutheran, two Catholic, one Baptist and one Presbyterian. At that time there were also many neighborhood meetings being held without formal organization of a church body.

NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN.

Hauges Church in Renville County. (By Rev. Thomas Hanson.) Away up north, on the east coast of the North sea, lies a country called Norway. Its inhabitants are called Northmen, or Norwegians. These have not been enervated by the tropical sun or dazed by the equatorial climate, but have been spurred on and quickened to activity by the snapping cold and healthy climate that this country is noted for. The strong, sturdy, noble and brave men of this country were men of great achievements and have figured conspicuously in the development of other countries and not least in the development of this grand country of the United States of America, the land of the free and the home of the true and the brave.

One of the first Norwegians to leave Norway's coast and strike out for the new world was Kleng Peerson from Stavanger, Norway. He landed at New York in 1821. After investigating the possibilities here he returned to his native land and induced 52 emigrants to follow him to this land in the spring of 1825, this being in fact the first real emigration of Norwegians to America. No more came until 1836, when the second expedition came from Stavanger, fifty-two in number. In 1837 another expedition came from Bergen, Norway. In 1840 about 1,000 had come and taken up their abode here. In

1850 there were about 12,000. In 1860 over 43,000. And so on until now Minnesota alone has approximately 400,000, and the United States about 2,000,000, of Norwegian birth.

Early settlements were made near Chicago, at Fox River, Ill. Later a settlement at Jefferson Prairie, Wis. From there on La Crosse, Wis., was the goal. Winneshiek county, Iowa, was settled from this point, as well as many other points in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Not the railroads but the boats brought the emigrants in those early days. From Winona was settled Fillmore county, Minnesota, so largely Norwegian. Later from Red Wing was settled Goodhue county, one of the most Norwegian places in Minnesota. The boats could not reach further than St. Paul, on account of St. Anthony Falls. Hence they turned up the Minnesota river to St. Peter. From this point was settled these western settlements at Fort Ridgely, Hawk Creek and even Norway Lake and Lac qui Parle.

Wherever these noble Norwegians settled they were true and loyal to their Christian faith and belief. No sooner was the log cabin built and the farm work started till they began to think of church and religious worship. They wanted their children baptized, their young instructed, the older admonished, their sick comforted by God's Word and the means of grace and their dead buried in a decent and Christianlike manner. Hence they always at every new settlement wrote back to the older settlements or to Norway to send men who could preach the gospel and administer the sacraments and perform the duties of the minister of the gospel.

In 1836 came Elling Eielsen, the first Norwegian Lutheran minister in America to the Norwegian settlement at Fox River, Wis. In 1843 he helped organize the "Evangelical Lutheran Church of America" at Jefferson Prairie, Wis., the first of its kind in the land of America. From this organization dates the Hauges Synod, to which organization the Hauges congregation of Renville county, Minnesota, belongs.

Fort Ridgely was the goal of settlers when Renville county was first populated. Among the early settlers were Hellek Pederson, Johannes Anderson Juve and others coming here as early as 1862. This first settlement was of short duration as the Sioux Indians made a savage outbreak in the fall of 1862, killing some of the first settlers, burning the homes of others and forcing the survivors to seek refuge at Fort Rigely, where a several days' battle was fought with the Indians. After this the Norwegians retreated to the older settlements further east. Several years later they again ventured out to Renville county, now followed by several more. They felt the need of a clergyman to administer to the needs of their souls, as well as they

felt the need of bodily support. Rev. Lars Johnson, of Wisconsin, was sent for and came in 1866, but made only a short stay.

In 1867 Peder Nelson, a pious and good man from Fillmore county, Minnesota, came and settled in Camp township, four miles northwest of Fort Ridgely. He gathered the people in the log cabins and sod houses on Sundays, reading, praying and expounding God's Word. In 1868 more of his friends and his like came from the older settlements and from Norway to settle here. Among these might be mentioned Ole Nesborg, Anders Hatlestad, Iver Branjord. Later came also Haagen Elstad, Ole Hogstad, Peder Lee and others, with large families and much interested in religion and church work. In 1869 and 1870 Rev. Peder Thompson, of Lac qui Parle county, made several visits. In 1870 he began instructing a confirmation class and held the first confirmation at Peder Nelson's log house in the fall of 1870. There were twelve young people confirmed, namely, Math. Killy, Ole Killy, Sjur Nelson, Oline Korsmo, Hans Larson, Kristina Larson, Maria Skarnes, Indianna Skarness, Gurina Anderson, Anna Anderson and Sophia Borgema.

In 1871 the Hauges congregation of Renville county, Minnesota, was formally organized at Peder Nelson's log house in the Minnesota river valley, near the mouth of Three Mile creek. The congregation tendered a call to Rev. Peder Thompson, which was accepted. The settlers log houses and the pioneer school houses were used as meeting places for quite a number of years, as in the early seventies came the so-called "grasshopper times," which dealt a heavy blow to progress in all lines and left the people too poor to build churches. About the year 1872 Rev. Peder Thompson tendered his resignation and Rev. Johannes Halvorson came to take his place and filled same till about the year 1877, when he was called to Sacred Heart, Minn. The congregation was then served by Reverends Brohough, Utheim and Boyum until about 1882, when a call was tendered Rev. Carl Holter, of Norway Lake, Minn., who served till 1884. Then Rev. M. G. Hanson, the present president of Hauges synod, was called as pastor. He was assisted by Rev. O. Anderson and served the congregation from St. Paul, Minn., where he resided, until 1887, when he resigned and Rev. O. A. Ostby was called in his place, beginning his service in 1888. Rev. Ostby served until 1892. Rev. C. O. Rosing was then called and served until 1895. Then the congregation was taken care of by Revs. Utheim, Pederson and Oppegaard. In 1896 a call was tendered Thomas Hanson, then a student at the theological seminary at Red Wing, Minn. He having calls also from other charges asked some time to decide. He finally decided for Renville county, beginning his duties as pastor of the Hauges

church early in 1897, after first graduating from the seminary and being ordained at St. Paul, Minn. Rev. Thomas Hanson has served the church as its pastor ever since that date.

In 1878 the Hauges church was built by the members of the church under the supervision of Haagen Elstad. In 1894 the Hauges synod held its synod meeting at this place. An addition was that year built to the church. In 1913 still another addition was built too, money for this being largely collected by Mrs. Thomas Hanson, wife of the pastor, but donated by members of the church.

The congregation has several months of parochial school every year for instruction of religion to the young. It has also a very large and active young people's society, as well as a ladies' aid society that has sent hundreds and thousands of dollars out for missions and aid for poor, besides helping to uphold the religious work in our own midst.

The congregation numbers at present something over three hundred.

The first cemetery was given by Erik Lokken, lying two miles west of Hauges church, used jointly with Franklin church. Some of the early interments in this cemetery were those of Johannes Anderson and Anders S. Korsmo. In the year 1900 a place for cemetery was bought near the Hauges church. The first interment in this cemetery was that of Hans Olson. Many of the old, faithful members have now gone to their final rest, but Hauges congregation has never lacked men and women who have been willing to do and to give and to help on the good work of upbuilding the kingdom of God and working for the salvation of souls. Andreas Nilsen was the first song leader for the congregation. After him Ole Steffenson served in that capacity and now John H. Elstad has filled that place for a period of thirty years.

Rev. Thomas Hanson, pastor of Hauges, Franklin, Zions, Camp and Fairfax Lutheran churches, was born at Immanuel church parish, at Aspelund, Goodhue county, Minn., on February 3, 1871, being the son of Rev. Osten Hanson, for nearly forty years pastor at that place, and for many years president of the Hauges synod. Rev. Thomas Hanson was first sent to school at the early age of five years, diligently attending the English public schools during the winter months from that time on and attending parochial school during the summer months. This was kept up until 1885, when he was confirmed at Immanuel church, Aspelund, Minn., by his father, Rev. Osten Hanson. At the age of fifteen, after being confirmed, he was sent to take up his studies at the Red Wing Seminary, Red Wing, Minn. Partly because he had to look after his father's farm interests and partly because he loved outside work as well as loving much his

home community, he spent a couple of years out on his father's farmstead. However, something seemed ever to be drawing him back to college, and he did not feel satisfied until he again took up his studies there. In 1895 he graduated from the college department. Having studied theology also during the senior year of his collegiate he was able to graduate (at the head of his class) in 1897, at the age of twenty-six years, having in the meantime taught school for many years during summer vacations. Long, strenuous and many had been the years of school and he accordingly had planned on a vacation before starting in the ministry. But as the charge he had accepted a call from was without a minister, he went to his duties in 1897 not long after the close of the school year, first attending to the necessary preliminaries. On June 2, 1897, he was united in marriage to Julia Follingstad, the lady having been teacher of music in his home community for more than five years and during the same time being church musician at Immanuel's church, Aspelund, Minn. To this union six children have been born, namely: Inga, Mabel, Ernest, Joseph, Henry and Victoria. On June 7, 1897, Mr. Hanson was ordained to the ministry at St. Paul, Minn. Four brothers are all ministers, namely: the above mentioned, Rev. M. G. Hanson, president of Hauges synod; Rev. H. A. Hanson, of Chicago, and Rev. S. E. Hanson, of Jackson, Minn., all being the sons of Rev. Osten Hanson, Goodhue county, Minnesota.

Rev. Thomas Hanson has served as a minister of the gospel in Renville county for a period of eighteen years and is still serving there in that capacity.

Fort Ridgely Congregation.—(By Rev. P. H. Rognlie.) The first people of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church came to the southeastern part of Renville county in 1861 and 1862. Among these settlers were Ole Sampson Kvam, sometimes known as Ole Quam, and his family; Hans Jorgen Halvorsen and his family, and two single men, John Hade and Conrad Hammi. At the time of the Indian outbreak in 1862 Ole Quam was killed by the Indians, as were also two of his children. His wife, Anna, with her infant child, as by a miracle, escaped the Indians, and hid for two or three days in the tall grass of the Minnesota bottoms. Then, carrying her almost dead child, she started for Fort Ridgely, which she reached the next morning, almost insane from fright, grief and starvation. She found there the other Norwegians who had escaped.

After the outbreak it took some years before the Scandinavians again began to immigrate to this part of the state. However, in 1868 a good many Scandinavians settled in the southeastern part of Renville county. As the Scandinavian people always have been known for their deep, earnest religiousness, they had longed for

years for an established church of their own faith.

On the fifth of May, 1868, Rev. Thomas Johnson, of St. Peter, Nicollet county, Minn., conducted his first service at the house of Johannes Andersen, in township of Camp.

On this occasion he baptized nine children, namely, Christopher I. Iversen, Bergitta Julia J. Ellestad, Edward Markus S. Iversen, Hilda Johanna P. Lathi, Gustav Daniel H. Johnson, Nicolai Juliana M. Johnson, Johan J. Anderson, Sala Louise T. Tweet and Genetta Christine H. J. Halvorsen.

Among those present may be mentioned Iver and Marie Iversen, Jorgen and Martha Ellestad, Sevald and Adrienne Iversen, Peter and Johanna Lathi, Magnus and Caroline Johnson, Johannes and Marthe Anderson, Bella Johnson, Elizabeth Iversen, Mathias Johnson, Peter Isaksen, John and Sara Hallin. Rev. Johnson continued farther west to preach the gospel of Christ for Scandinavians living there.

On the twentieth of May, 1868, Rev. Johnson returned from the west and on that day a meeting was held at the house of Johannes Anderson, Camp township, for the purpose of organizing an Evangelical Lutheran congregation. Consequently the Fort Ridgely Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized, and on that day its constitution adopted. It is no doubt the first organized Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Renville county.

The founders of the congregation were Jorgen Gilbertsen Ellestad, Hans Jorgen Halvorsen, Magnus Johnson, Mathias Bogema, Johannes Anderson and Tov Rudy.

The first confirmation in this congregation took place on May 12, 1871. The names of those confirmed are: Johan Magnus L. Johannesen, Anton O. Lunder, Isak Astor S. Iversen, Johan O. Johnson, Martha O. Ellingsen, Martha Maria M. Johnson, Maria O. Johnson, Maria Elizabeth L. Johannesen, Gustava Hedvig H. T. Christiansen, Anna Gustava H. T. Christiansen, Anna S. Eriksen, Nicolai M. Johnson, Johan M. Johnson.

The first bridal couple that was married in this congregation was Johan O. Lee and Lina Ivensdotter. They were married in the residence of the groom's brother, Mathias O. Lee, in November, 1869, by Rev. Nils Ylvizaker, of Red Wing, Minnesota.

The first burial that is recorded in the congregation was that of Gunhild Thorsdotter. She died December 21, 1868, at the age of 41 years, and the last rites at her grave were performed in May, 1869, by Rev. Thomas Johnson.

In 1878 this congregation was incorporated under the laws of the state of Minnesota.

The members of this congregation as well as the rest of the pioneers in this

part of the state suffered greatly from the grasshopper plague from 1872 to 1876. And there also came other trials for this congregation, which shall not be mentioned here.

In 1874 this congregation joined the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North America. On June 2, 1874, this congregation was divided into two congregations, viz. Fort Ridgely and Dale—an action which ever since has been more or less lamented. In 1871 a committee of five was appointed to find a suitable place for a church and cemetery, without any result. In the spring of 1878 the Fort Ridgely and Dale congregations bought the improvements from Rev. Johannes Halvorsen, made on the north one-half of the northeast quarter of section 16, in town of Camp. This parsonage, land and buildings, are now owned in connection by Fort Ridgely, two-sixths, Dale, two-sixths, Concordia, two-sixths, Palmyra, one-fourth, Clear Lake congregation, Sibley county, one-fourth.

On June 19, 1878, a committee meeting of members from Fort Ridgely, Dale and Palmyra congregations was held to discuss the erection of a parsonage on the northeast one-half of this land. A building committee was appointed, viz., Mathias O. Lee, Jacob P. Kopperud and Gabriel A. Nilsen Bjurselmo. It was decided that a frame building, 26x26, 14 feet high, should be erected. The work on this building was commenced October, 1878, and the building was partly finished the same fall, and on Christmas Eve, 1878, Rev. Nils P. Xavier with his family, moved into the new building.

From the earliest time it had been the greatest wish of these congregations to get a house of worship of their own. The first money set aside for this purpose was the confirmation offering May 22, 1879—\$7.07, and on the Fourth of July the same year a collection of \$6.08. On the fifteenth of May, 1884, a joint meeting of Fort Ridgely and Dale congregations was held to discuss the possibility of building a church in conjunction. It was decided with a great majority to go to work as soon as possible. In the meantime the controversies concerning the predestination had sprung up in the Synod and spread to most of its congregations. Also these congregations suffered greatly on account of those controversies. On Tuesday, December 15, 1885, a new meeting was held in the parsonage to discuss the question about building of the church on the parsonage land, the north one-half of the northeast quarter of section 16, Town of Camp. A subscription of \$855 was raised that day. The next meeting was held in 1886. A building committee was appointed, and the site of the church was decided on to be 40x28, and 16 feet high, with tower and chancel. In the summer of 1886 the church was built by Mr. Har-

rison. On October 29, 1886, the cornerstone was laid in the name of the Triune God, and the church was dedicated on May 28, 1893, by Rt. Rev. Knut Björge. On the following day an old settlers' reunion was held at the parsonage. The congregations have a graveyard adjoining the church in common.

The first funeral was held July 8, 1884, over a dead born child of Mr. and Mrs. Ole P. Høimge, and the next was that of Randi Enger, the wife of John Enger, Sr. The first child that was baptized in this church was Selma Genora H. Johnson, born July 10, 1886, baptized August 15, 1886. The first confirmation was held July 18, 1886. The first marriage that was performed in this church occurred June 20, 1887. The bridegroom was Peter T. Lund, and the bride was Kari Marie Lykken.

Among the pioneers of Fort Ridgely congregation may be mentioned, besides the six founders, above named, the following: Mathias O. Lee, John Enger, Sr., and Jr., Lars Enger, Sylfest Olson, Leif Torgrimson, Ole E. Berge, Odd B. Jacobsen, Einar Nilsen Hunsaker, Olaf Dale, Hans Grasmoen.

Dale congregation was organized 1874. What already has been related about Fort Ridgely congregation does also for a great deal concern the Dale congregation, as they always have been served by the same pastors and have owned all church property in community.

Among the pioneers of Dale congregation may be mentioned Peder and Ole Høimyr, Rasmus O. Ness, Gabriel A. Nilsen Bjurselmo, Ole Johnson, Gustav Anderson, Jacob Volen, Halvor Johnson, Hans Carlson, Ole Pedersen Rønne, Ole Veikle, Mathias O. Hagestad, Tarald Semmingsen, Peder Nestande.

Concordia Congregation of Franklin. (By Rev. P. H. Rognlie.) Our brethren in Franklin first belonged to the Dale congregation, but on account of the long distance to the church and the difficulty of making the trip, they asked for the privilege to be considered as an annex to the Dale congregation.

In the spring of 1898 they commenced the building of their own church. The first service in the new church was held May 22, 1898. The cornerstone was laid by Prof. Johannes Ylvisaker, July 22, 1898. The size of the church is 40x24, and 14 feet high, and supplied with a tower and chancel.

The first child that was baptized in the Concordia church was Clara Esther P. Wicken, born May 10, 1898, baptized June 6, 1898. The first marriage that was solemnized was that of Johan Bernhard Tweet and Marie Josephine Nilsen, March 14, 1900.

On November 9, 1900, it was decided to organize a separate congregation, and that the name of that congregation should be

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran congregation.

The congregation owns one-sixth of the Fort Ridgely and Dale parsonage and cemetery.

Among the founders of this congregation may be mentioned Johannes A. Bergley, Halvor Johnson, Iver Mahlum, Ole Pedersen Rønne, Hans Jensen, John Foss, George O. Steen, Oscar Johnson, Gustav Johnson, Gottfried and Hans Cormontan, Martin C. Skau, Martin Larson, Johan Bernhard Tweet, Gabriel A. Nilsen Bjurselmo, Carl Nilsen, Sven and Gilbert Gilbertsen, Even Anderson.

Morton Congregation. (By Rev. P. H. Rognlie.) On Sunday, April 8, 1888, Rev. Nils P. Xavier preached the first Norwegian Lutheran sermon in the schoolhouse in Morton, and baptized one child, Axel Herman E. Lundquist, born January 10, 1888. From that time Rev. Xavier made regular calls to Morton, and likewise his successor, Rev. Parelus H. Rognlie.

On February 16, 1899, the Morton Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized. Among those that first signed the constitution may be mentioned Nils P. Flink, John Anderson, Steffen Olson, Andrew Larsen, Hans Daasvand, Tom Thompson, Ole Syversen.

This congregation has no church of its own, but occasionally uses the German Lutheran church and private residences for their edification.

The membership of Fort Ridgely, Dale, Concordia and Morton churches is at present 380.

These congregations have been served by the following pastors: I. Rev. Thomas Johnson, from the organization of Fort Ridgely congregation to the tenth of October, 1871. He was born in Valdres, Norway, April 27, 1837, graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1863. The same year he came to Saint Peter, Minnesota, where he served in the ministry of the gospel to his death, April 19, 1906. In the pioneer days his mission field extended over the counties of Minnesota, Iowa and Dakota. II. Rev. Johannes E. Bergh, from Sacred Heart, Minnesota, served these congregations from October 10, 1871, to January 1, 1874. Rev. Bergh was born in Vos, Norway, May 5, 1842, graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, 1869, died August 21, 1905. III. Rev. Michael Borge, from January 1, 1874, to July 31, 1876. Rev. Borge was born near Bergen, Norway, September 9, 1846, graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, 1873. At present pastor and manager of the Old People's Home and Orphans' Home at Stoughton, Wisconsin. IV. Rev. Nils P. Xavier from July 31, 1876, till May 12, 1891. Rev. Xavier was born in Kautokeino, Norway, September 26, 1839, graduated from Springfield, Illi-

nois. At present home missionary in the state of Washington. V. Rev. Parelus H. Rognlie, from July 22, 1891, to the present time. (Note by the publishers.—As Rev. Rognlie, the author of these splendid church histories, has modestly refrained from including his own biography in this list, it has been prepared by the publishers, and appears on a following page.)

Palmyra Congregation. (By Rev. P. H. Rognlie.) The first Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran settlers in Palmyra came there in 1871. Among the early settlers may be mentioned Even Olsen Kjonaas, Ole Halvorsen Svensö, John O. Vefald, Lorents and Johannes Eriksen, Leif Tinnnes, Paul Ranberg and Bernt Andersen. In 1872 a number of others came, as Johan Bauman and Carl A. Mork, Ole and Elias Eriksen, Anton H. Christiansen, Alexander Johnson and sons, Ole Nordskog.

Monday, October 7, 1872, Gabriel A. Nilsen Bjurselmo took Rev. Johannes Bergh to Palmyra, and Rev. Bergh preached that day the first Evangelical Lutheran sermon at the residence of Bernt Andersen. Seven children were baptized that day: August Meier O. Eriksen, Nils Peter J. Johnson, Carl August C. Haagensen, Albert J. Anderson, Dorthea O. Halvorsen, Svensö, Carl Johan J. Vefald and Gilbert Theodor E. Olsen Kjonaas. Among those present at that service we find the names of Sven and Iver Gerald, Brynild and Anfin Tollefsen, Lars Tinnnes, Styrk Eriksen, Ole and Elias Eriksen, Mrs. Alea Eriksen, Johan and Lina B. Anderson, Carl Gustav and Ellen Haagensen, John and Anna Anderson, John Bauman Mork and wife, Carl and Maren Anna Mork, Evrine Mork, Ole and Aaste Halvorsen Svensö, John and Kari O. Vefald, Even and Martha Olsen Kjonaas, Anton and Tonette Christiansen, Oline O. Eriksen, Andrew Larson, Anna Anderson, Sven Ahl and wife, Lina Blad, Carl Gustav Anderson, Anna Lina Bergman, Alexander and Susanna Johnson, Johannes Eriksen and wife, Martin Johnson, Guri and Ella S. Gerald, Paul Ranberg and wife, and Christine Bergman.

On November 7, 1872, the second service was held by Rev. Bergh at the house of Paul Ranberg. After the service the Palmyra Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized and its constitution adopted. The congregation was served by Rev. Johannes Bergh from Sacred Heart, Minnesota, to the end of 1873, and from January, 1874, to July 31, 1876, by Rev. Michael Borge from Mankato, Minnesota. On July 31 Rev. Nils P. Xavier preached his first sermon in the town hall of Palmyra, and he served the congregation till May, 1891.

The present pastor, Parelus H. Rognlie, preached his introductory sermon July 26, 1891.

The first class of confirmands from Palmyra congregation was confirmed in the schoolhouse by Three Mile Creek on the fourth of October, 1874. Their names are:

Conrad M. Christiansen, Justin A. Johnson, Svennung J. Vefald, Ella S. Gerald.

The first bridal couple was Tobias Risdal and Anne J. Vefald, married by Rev. Bergh.

The cemetery, where the church now stands, is located in the southeastern corner of section 16, Palmyra township. It was dedicated the 1st of June, 1874, by Rev. Michael Borge. The first burial on record is that of Samuel Svendsen, died September 29, 1876, and buried October 1, 1876, age 72 years.

The congregation was incorporated under the laws of the state the 9th of October, 1878. The first meeting called for the purpose of considering the building of a church was held May 19, 1884. On Tuesday, May 5, 1885, the cornerstone was laid by Rev. Johannes Bergh in the name of the Triune God. The size of the church is 40x28, 16 feet high, supplied also with a tower, chancel and sacristy. The church building committee was composed of Carl A. Mork, Elias M. Eriksen, Lars L. Timmes, Tyke Ytterboe, Ole Johnson, John Pedersen and Peder P. Hornseth. The church was dedicated Wednesday, September 16, 1885, by Rev. Thomas Johnson, of St. Peter.

On June 23 and 24, 1912, the Palmyra Evangelical Lutheran congregation celebrated its fortieth anniversary. Professor O. E. Brandt preached the festival sermon on the first day, and the Swedish Lutheran pastor, Rev. A. Bengtson, preached in the afternoon. Prof. G. C. Ristad, from Fergus Falls, preached the second day, and the local minister gave a historical sketch of the congregation from its foundation up to the present time.

In spite of much weakness we still hope that these words from the holy Writ may be applied on these congregations: "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted." Rev. 2, 2-3.

Rev. Parelus H. Rognlie was born near Trondhjem, Norway, December 21, 1858. He attended the public schools in his native land for about four years. In the spring of 1870 he immigrated with his parents to the United States and lived in Houston county, Minnesota, one year. In the spring of 1871 he moved to Lyon county, Minnesota, at that time a wilderness, and with his parents went through all the hardships of the pioneer days. The next year most of the homestead land in the town of Lucas was taken up and a year or two later a school was organized which he attended. August 8, 1875, he, with thirteen others, was confirmed by Rev. Thorstensen in the Grove of Hellek Glaim on the Yellow Medicine river, there being

no church in that part of the country. His pastor and others urged him to go to college and take up the study of the ministry, but on account of lack of means and also on account of his father's poor health, he decided to stay at home for a time and help his parents. In 1881 he entered the preparatory school at St. Olaf's college, Northfield, Minnesota, and later attended Luther college, Decorah, Iowa, earning his way by teaching school and doing farm work. In the fall of 1885 he went to Europe in order to receive treatment for his eyes and was operated on at the State Hospital in Norway. When he returned to the United States, he resumed teaching and continued his studies by himself. In 1888 he was admitted to the Luther Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, and graduated June 26, 1891. In February, 1891, he was called as pastor for the Fort Ridgely, Dale, Palmyra and Clear Lake congregations, Renville and Sibley counties, Minnesota. On July 22, 1891, he was ordained at Fort Ridgely and Dale church by Rt. Rev. K. Bjorge, assisted by Rev. S. J. Bergh, Rev. N. P. Xavier, Rev. Thomas Johnsen and Rev. B. Askevold. He has remained at this place ever since and now serves Fort Ridgely, Dale, Concordia, Clear Lake and Morton Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran congregations and every other month he serves Camp and Fairfax Norwegian Lutheran congregations, alternating with Rev. Thomas Hanson. He preached the first Norwegian Lutheran sermon in Bird Island, September 16, 1891, and organized the church there. He preached the first Norwegian Lutheran sermon in Fairfax December 10, 1893.

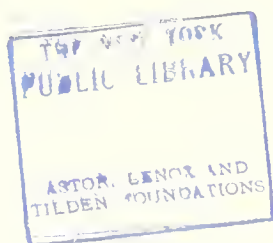
June 13, 1895, he was married to Ronnaug Marie M. Gullerud and they have had the following children: Ingolf Herman Marentius, born March 26, 1896; Katharina Josephine, born December 26, 1897; Parelus Monrad, born January 28, 1900, died July 2, 1901; Palma Margrethe, born April 8, 1902; Clarence Parelus Monrad, born May 6, 1904; Julia Christine, born October 4, 1908. Among those who have made their home at the parsonage may be mentioned Christian Blichfeldt and James George Thompson.

Camp Congregation. In the early days of the settlement of those western prairies a considerable number of Norwegian emigrants moved west to find new homes, and during the last part of the sixties, especially in the years 1868, 1869, 1871 and 1872, Camp township was very well settled. Most of the Scandinavians belonged to the Lutheran belief and confession, and as soon as these new settlers were well located they made arrangements to be visited by ministers of their own faith. Rev. Johnson of St. Peter, the nearest Norwegian Lutheran minister, took charge here the first number of years. Later he was followed by several others.

There was no formal organization of any



REV. AND MRS. PARELIUS H. ROGNLIE



congregation until after some years later, as during the so-called grasshopper plague this country was very badly set back. Finally in the year 1885 the Camp Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized, of which the first officers were elected as follows. G. O. Myrhang, president; Ole H. Grasmoe, Sever Nelson, and Ole Jacobson, trustees; N. O. Berge, secretary; J. O. Semmerud, treasurer. During the year 1885 it was determined to start a fund to build a church. A subscription was secured to the amount of \$1,000, a constitution was adopted, and the Camp congregation was formally incorporated under the state laws in March, 1886, and a building committee was appointed to see the church was built during the summer of that year.

Ole C. Engg got the contract to build the structure, on the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of section 25, in town of Camp, three miles northwest from old Fort Ridgely. The church was fully finished and equipped and was dedicated in the summer of 1888. During these years the congregation has been served by ministers as follows: Rev. Falk M. Gjertsen, of Minneapolis; Prof. Blegan, of Minneapolis; Prof. Theo. S. Reimstad; Rev. Ytterhus; Rev. Wold. Rev. S. E. Sorenson served the congregation for about three years. Rev. C. O. Rosing was the first minister to reside here, and served the congregation something over three years. Rev. J. S. Suave served little over one year. Rev. O. R. Farseth, of Clarkfield, served about one and one-half years. Rev. E. H. Midthö served some over three years. Rev. Thomas Hanson served from 1901 until November, 1906. Rev. R. K. Fjellstad served from 1907 until 1912. Ever since, Revs. Thomas Hanson and P. H. Rognlie have served the congregation alternately up to the present time.

The last report given as the total membership was 55.

Following is a list of the old pioneer members of this denomination, and who were the first to contribute the largest part of the cost of the church, namely: E. G. Melwold, G. O. Myrhang, Ole Jacobson, M. J. Asak, J. O. Semmerud, Jacob Peterson, Sever Nelson, A. A. Bergely, N. O. Berge, Eimar Nelson, Andrias Nelson, Christian Nelson, A. L. Nesseth, Martin O. Nelson, Louis Peterson, A. H. Bergely, Gunder Borstad, Amon A. Berger, Engbrith Larson, Ole Melwold, Kasper H. Grasmoe, Ole Grasmoe, Ole O. Kinder, and several members joined later. The first service in the new church was solemnized on Sunday, the 21st of July, 1886. The first child baptized at the service was Gina Bergely, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Bergely, by Rev. S. E. Sorenson. The first marriage solemnized in the new church was the marriage of John O. Hogstad of Camp, and Nellie Jacobson, also of Camp. Rev.

S. E. Sorenson performing the ceremony on July 21, 1888.

This congregation has its cemetery on their church lot which contains about two and one-half acres, in which many of the old pioneer members are laid to rest. The first burials were: Mrs. A. J. Asak, Mrs. Lewis Hanson, Mrs. Halvor Hanson, away back in the eighties, of whose deaths there are no church records. The first death on record is that of Hans Eidsvold, December 16, 1888. The Camp Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation concluded some years ago to join and be a member of the United Lutheran church of America.

The present officers of this congregation are: A. A. Bergely, vice president; N. O. Nelson, J. O. Semmerud, and Johnny O. Jacobson, trustees; N. O. Berge, secretary; A. E. Melwold, treasurer.

Zions Congregation of Bandon. In the early days of the "homesteaders" several Scandinavian settlers took homesteads and settled in Bandon township and vicinity, where they built homes and tilled the soil in order to provide for themselves and their families, but they were not satisfied with home alone. They felt the need of forming a congregation with the view of building a church in order that the Lutheran religion might be preached to them and their children.

And so on March 25, 1886, they held a meeting in schoolhouse No. 66, known as the Nestande schoolhouse, and organized Zions Evangelical Lutheran congregation. Among the first members of the congregation were: Hans Gumpolen, Tollef Pederson, Peder Sather, John Nestande, Rasolf Olson, J. M. Lunde, Ole Lee and others.

During the early days of the congregation services, which were dutifully attended, were held at the homes of members and largely at schoolhouse No. 66. Soon, however, the members felt that they must have a church wherein to worship, so a subscription was taken up to raise money for the purpose and as this succeeded well the church was built in the summer of 1891, during the pastorate of O. A. Ostby, by Contractor Engen, on lots donated by John Nestande and situated on the west side of the road opposite the Nestande farmstead. The church and adjoining graveyard were dedicated in 1901 at the time of Rev. E. H. Midthö's pastorate.

In 1886 the congregation decided to call as pastor Rev. M. G. Hanson, of the Hauges Synod, now president of same. He accepted the call tendered him and served as pastor until 1887, when he resigned. Then O. A. Ostby was called as pastor and at his resignation in 1892, C. O. Rosing, who remained until 1896, became pastor. In 1896 and 1897 J. S. Sneve served as pastor and from 1897 to 1898 O. C. Farseth, E. H. Midthö, during whose pastorate the

congregation joined the "United Church," served as minister from 1898 until 1902, when Rev. Thomas Hanson, the present pastor, was called as minister.

According to records Emilie Gumpolen was the first child baptized in Zions congregation, and Oline Pederson the first child to be baptized in the church after its completion. Knut Gunderson and Asborg Vasjo are on record as the first couple married in the church. Mrs. Grine C. P. Sather was one of the first to be buried from the church and laid to rest in Zions cemetery.

Many have been baptized, confirmed, and married in Zions church. The work of Zions congregation has not been in vain, and the younger generation owe much to the pioneer members who founded the congregation largely perhaps for their benefit. The congregation now has a Ladies' Aid which has given hundreds and thousands of dollars to missions and poor people and the church. It is still working faithfully for the same purpose as formerly, that of raising money and exercising influence to do good.

The membership is about 105 and has thus increased considerably since 1886, when the congregation was formed. Many of the pioneer members of the congregation are dead and buried in Zions cemetery, but many of them are still zealously working for the good of Zions congregation, for the glory of God and for the salvation of souls.

Fairfax Congregation. (By Rev. Thomas Hanson.) The village of Fairfax was started about 1882, when the M. & St. L. R. R. was built. The little new village was largely populated by Germans. A few Norwegians moved in from time to time. Rev. Midtbö, a Norwegian Lutheran minister, resided in this village from 1899 till 1902. No active church work in the village was, however, taken up by him. In 1902 Rev. Thomas Hanson, then pastor of Hauges, Franklin, Zions and Camp churches, was asked to come over and preach the Gospel. First a church was loaned by the Methodists and at other times other accommodations were used. This being rather inconvenient a house of worship was longed for. A Ladies' Aid was organized within the village for the purpose of raising money for a house of worship. Later the men also joined in soliciting subscriptions towards a church. Of those who took very active part in this and greatly helped on the work might be mentioned Segvart Gumpolen, N. P. Nelson, Even Grasmoe and others. In 1905 a church was bought. The same year it was fully paid for and fully equipped with church bell, organ and the like.

In 1906 Rev. Thomas Hanson resigned, the work being a little too much, there then being five churches in his charge. Rev. R. Fjelstad was called. He accepted and began serving in 1907. In 1912 Rev. Fjel-

stad died. The church was then without a pastor. It was then decided to call both Rev. P. H. Rognlie and Rev. Thomas Hanson, each serving every other month. They have served this church since 1912 and are at present the pastors of the church.

The church has a very active Ladies' Aid and a Sunday school with an attendance of about 20 pupils. Segvart Gumpolen is the superintendent of the Sunday school and also the song leader of the church.

Franklin Congregation was organized in 1876 by the following: Thomas Tweet, Hellek Peterson, Holger Jacobus, who was also the first postmaster of Franklin, Erik Loikken, Jens Skarness, Magnus Johnson, E. S. Johnson and Engebert Thompson. Jacobus was the first secretary. It is not remembered who came here to preach before there was a regular called minister, but Rev. Erikson of Hawk Creek, was the first regular called minister who served the congregation for two or three years. Many members were added to the congregation during that time and later. After Rev. Erikson several of the ministers were: Revs. L. N. Pederson, Prof. Theo. Rumestad Jacobson, of Westbrook, Minnesota, M. G. Hanson and S. E. Sorensen, of St. Paul, who served the congregation for about thirty years, after which the Franklin, Hauges, Zions and Camp congregations consolidated so as to call one minister together who should then reside here. C. O. Rosing of the United church was called and accepted and moved here from Minneapolis and was minister for about three years. Hauges congregation then called Rev. Thos. Hanson, and the other three congregations called Student J. S. Sneve, who accepted and served here for nearly two years, when he resigned and left in the spring of 1898, when the present minister, Rev. Thos. Hanson, was called and is still serving as the congregation minister.

Trinity church of Franklin congregation was started in 1889, but was not completely finished until 1895. Still later extensive improvements have been made such as installing a new altar and church bell, and the building of a full basement under the whole church neatly partitioned off into various useful compartments, same costing over \$1,200. The church has a large Sunday school and conducts a parochial school during the summer months, for the instruction of religion to the young.

It has also a very active Ladies' Aid society, producing several hundred dollars each year for benevolent and religious purposes.

The first child on record as being baptized here is Julia Anette Monson. The first funeral was that of Inger Skarnes. The first confirmation was held July 8, 1877. Among those then confirmed might be mentioned Jacob Pederson and Emma M. Johnson.

One of the first marriages was that of J. M. Johnson and Carrie Lökken. Many of the younger generation use English more than their ancestral tongue, hence the church work is carried on in both languages. It might be mentioned that the young as well as the old for a great part are very loyal to the church, attending regularly and giving freely.

Hof Congregation Sacred Heart. (By Rev. T. J. Oppedahl.) This congregation was organized June 23, 1871, by Rev. Lars O. Rustad, a member of the Hauges Evangelical Lutheran Synode, and also having charge of several congregations near Willmar, Kandchi county, Minnesota. He was the first representative of the Hauges Synode that ever held any religious service in and around the village of Sacred Heart. The first service was held in 1870. A few of the pioneer members of this church can be mentioned. Lars Ingebreton, Hendrik Lien, Ole Skalbeck, Hendrik Berg, Ole Hendrikson, Andrias Erikson, Fredrik O. Johnson, Christian Krogfos, Ole Oppegaard, Ole Johnson, etc.

A church was built and partly finished in 1880; it was located about a half mile southwest from the village of Sacred Heart. A number of years later, namely in 1891, the church was moved into the village, and it was then completely finished, and has a seating capacity of 200 people. The church was built under the pastorate of Johannes Halverson; it was finished and dedicated under the pastorate of Rev. T. J. Oppedahl.

The congregation bought a dwelling house a few blocks from where the church is now located; this house they rebuilt, enlarged and remodeled, and it is now a most modern and complete parsonage.

The congregation has also a cemetery of its own; it is located near the original site of the church.

The following pastors have had charge of this church: Rev. Lars Olen Rustad (1871-1878); Rev. Johannes Halverson (1878-1890); Rev. T. J. Oppedahl (1890-1905); Rev. S. Brecke (1906-1910); Rev. A. O. Nes (1910-1913); Rev. T. J. Oppedahl, who is now serving the congregation the second time.

Vestre Sogn Congregation. (By A. T. Ellingboe.) This congregation was organized in about 1870 and services were held in the farm houses and school houses. January 15, 1881, a meeting was held at the home of C. O. Narvestad in the town of Wang to discuss the advisability of erecting a church building. C. O. Narvestad offered to donate land for a church lot and it was decided to build a church. A committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the church building. They were Elling Johnson, K. Vikken, P. C. Brevig and Ole Ellefson. The next meeting was held at the same place, February 21, 1881. It was decided to build the church in the spring of 1881. At this meet-

ing a building committee was chosen consisting of C. O. Narvestad, P. C. Brevig, Theo. Rongerud, H. T. Ellingboe and Ole Ellefson. C. O. Narvestad donated one acre of land to the church and sold one acre for \$10. At a meeting held at the same place March 5, 1881, the committee on subscriptions reported having received \$1,495 and it was decided to advertise for bids on building the church. The church was built in the summer of that year. The first services were held in the new frame church July 18, 1881, but the church was not completed until 1882. Rev. John Bergh was the first pastor. The congregation was incorporated March 30, 1905, by the following persons: P. C. Brevig, C. O. Narvestad, O. K. Williams. The officers were: President, C. T. Clausen; secretary, A. T. Kjersten; treasurer, P. C. Brevig; members of the board, John Engebretson, Hans Grotvedt and Ole Ellefson. June, 1914, the church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

The congregation is now dissolved and the members have joined other congregations, though at the present time a pretty chapel is being erected on the old site, and here services will be held from time to time.

Wang's Congregation. (By A. T. Ellingboe.) This congregation was organized May 15, 1885, with the following trustees: Ole C. Soine, Ole G. Loe and Gullik H. Weffen. The officers were: Secretary, Christopher Gjevve, and treasurer, Christian Brevig. The church of the Vestre Sogn congregation was used until 1892, when the Wang church was built on the one and a half acre tract of land in section 9, donated by A. T. Ellingboe. The first pastor of this congregation was Rev. A. H. Gjevve. The present pastors are: Revs. M. B. and O. E. Erikson. The trustees are H. A. Weffen, O. T. Haugen and H. E. Thorkelson. The officers are: Treasurer, C. A. Hovda, and secretary, A. T. Ellingboe.

Our Savior's and Opdal Congregations of Sacred Heart. (By Rev. Nils Giere.) The majority of the early settlers along the banks of the Minnesota river in the western part of Renville county after the massacre were Scandinavians. Their heroic story is told elsewhere.

In those early days there were no public schools. It developed upon the parents all together to care for the instruction of their children. Accordingly every home had its private school where first of all the essentials of Christian doctrine were inculcated as set forth in Luther's Catechism, Pontopidan's "Forklaring," and other textbooks. Much credit is given to the untiring and faithful services of Lars L. Rudi, a man of much learning and Christian experience. For some time he served as the local "teacher and pastor" of the entire community. Every Sunday Mr. Rudi would have the pioneers come together for Christian worship in log cabins, cellars or the

open, lead on in prayer and singing, expound portions of scripture, exhorting his friends to steadfastness in faith and clean living and then devote the rest of his time to the instruction of the "little ones."

The first Lutheran pastor to visit the Sacred Heart settlement was Rev. Thomas Johnson, of Swan Lake, Minnesota.

On a "bright Sunday morning," September 22, 1868, a large number—men, women and children—coming by foot, some from a distance of eight miles or more, assembled at the home of Ole Kolien, where the "first sermon" was preached and the mother church of all the Lutheran churches in western Renville county was organized as "Our Savior's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Renville County, Minnesota." For a period of three years the devoted Rev. Johnson served the pioneer church as often and faithfully as time and occasion would permit. His salary was fixed at \$40.00 a year. Sometimes the venerable reverend would have other pastors come to his assistance, like Revs. N. Brandt, of Decorah, Iowa; N. Ylvisaker, of Zumbrota, and T. Hattrem, of Lake Hanska, Minn. The constitution of Our Savior's church was undersigned, as it appears, by 97 charter members. Besides the names already mentioned may be added the following: Ole O. Melsness, Ole Enestvedt, Tollef Enestvedt, Eric Nelson, Hellek Kollien, Ole B. Dahl, Iver Iverson, Christian Narvestad, Theodore Rongerud, Hans Grotvedt, Ole and Halsten Otos, Hans Gunderson, Christian Ingebritson, H. Stavne, P. G. Peterson, G. S. Melsness, Eric Golie, Hans Sagnes, Christian Hoö, Halvor Mutta, H. Golie, Hermo Halverson, B. Hogenson, B. Kortgaard, Ole Skjaggeby, K. Throngaard, O. Holtan, K. Bergan, Peter Kartgaard, P. Erickson, P. Oslie, A. Samuelson, E. S. Gunderson, J. Tillisch, John Roste, M. Hogenson, Christian Listerud, T. Skrukrud, and John Hang. Later on names like P. P. Dnstrud, Martin Jacobson, O. T. Rude and Ole Stensrud were added.

For reason of the great scarcity of ministers at that time, the Sacred Heart people did not succeed in securing their local and resident pastor till in the fall of 1871. Rev. Johannes E. Bergh, of Muskegon, Michigan, upon a call from Sacred Heart (Our Savior's), Ft. Ridgely and Yellow Medicine congregations was then installed by Rev. Thomas Johnson November 12 in the log cabin of Peter Erickson. A wide mission field extending to a radius now covered by all of ten parishes, tested the zeal and strength of the new pastor through pathless plains and dreadful winter blizzards. But he labored on and for 33 years devoutly ministered to his people. The people, though poor, were happy and hopeful, faithfully meeting winter and summer at all church services. Yellow Medicine and Fort Ridgely churches withdrew respectively 1874 and 1876 from the call.

About this time Our Savior's church joined the "Synod for the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America," to which society it has ever since belonged. A parsonage had been built about 7 miles southwest of Sacred Heart, preparatory steps were taken for the erection of a church, much interest was shown in arranging for parochial schools in the various districts and everything looked prosperous. But then came the pestering scourge of grasshoppers, which precipitated a sudden halt for years in all lines of progress. Many of the old homesteaders sold out and left the country, others for the support of their families would through the busy season of the year have to seek work in the southern settlements of the state, and yet the people never murmured, but displayed rather a spirit of cheerfulness and contentment ever ready to divide with one another their scanty portions of flour and cornmeal as best they knew how.

Not till 1880 was any effective work done toward the building of a church. By this time "the railroad had come," the consequence of which at once decided the location of the proposed house of worship. The cornerstone for the so-called "Synod church" of Sacred Heart was then laid on a lovely eminence in the center of the village, a small piece of ground south of town was secured as a place of burial. The new edifice was dedicated by Rev. Prof. H. G. Stub at a big church convention held here in the summer of 1888.

Previous to and succeeding this event new church organizations had been formed as annex-churches to Sacred Heart like Vestre Sogn, Our Savior's of Renville, Rock Dell and Opdal, all of which in course of time became separate parishes, except Opdal, which ever since its organization has remained a part of the "Sacred Heart call."

Rev. Bergh's pastorate, as noted, covered a period of 33 years. The following pastors served as his assistants: Revs. S. T. Reishus (1885-86), H. A. Stub (1887), Nils Giere (1901-04). At the resignation of Rev. J. E. Bergh, May, 1904, call was extended to Rev. Nils Giere, the present pastor of the Sacred Heart parish. The old country parsonage, house and farm, was eventually donated to Rev. Bergh. There he resided for about 26 years. About 1897 Rev. Bergh erected his own dwelling in Sacred Heart. This magnificent structure was later on (1905) purchased by the parish for \$3,500. Adjoining each of the two churches in Sacred Heart and Opdal chapels were built (1911 and 1913) at the cost of \$4,300.

By statistics of 1908 the total number of baptisms was given as 2,359; confirmed, 1,187; married, 330; buried, 491. The first born: Jorgine Caroline Enestvedt and Halvor Ostenius Helgeson, both born 1867. First married: A. Samuelson and Chris-

tine Christenson, by Rev. Thomas Johnson, May 29, 1869.

The present total membership of Sacred Heart and Opdal churches, 813. Six Ladies' Aids, one girls' Priscilla club, and two Y. P. societies have been in active work for years. Summer schools for the instruction of the young are maintained in the chapels and country school houses—besides Saturday and Sunday schools. Donations to various missions last year (1914) was \$1,578.45.

Present officers: Janitors, O. H. Larshus, Ole Forkerud; choristers, P. C. Brevig, Ole Enestvedt; organists, Esther Giere, Anna Kottom; trustees, G. P. Mangerud, A. O. Skrukud, Carl Jacobson, M. G. Melsness, H. Golie, H. Collin, H. Hagenson, L. Danielson; superintendent of Sunday school, G. P. Mangerud; building committee, T. A. Nellermo, John Haug, H. Thostenson, A. A. Skjefte, Rev. Giere.

Rev. Nils Giere was born June 3, 1855, in the town of Deerfield, Dane county, Wisconsin. His ancestors, both on father's and mother's side, came from Hallingdal and Vass, Norway, in 1846 and 1850. He attended Luther college, Decorah, Iowa, 1873-1879. Luther Seminary, Madison, Wisconsin, 1879-1881. University of Christiania, Norway, 1881-1883. He was ordained September 6, 1883, and served at following pastorates: Crow River and Big Grove, Kandiyohi and Stearns counties, sixteen years. Renville and Bird Island twelve years. Sacred Heart and Opdal eleven years. He was married to Bertha Susannah Nielson, of Madison, Wisconsin, August 6, 1884, and their children are: Arthur Frederick, attorney at Centralia, Washington; Constance Bernhardine, Mrs. T. H. Callin, Seattle, Washington; Silas Waldemar, student Rush Medical College, Chicago; Esther Luella and Ruth Erolinda, at home.

Our Saviour's Congregation of Renville. (By Rev. Gilbert Oppen.) In the early days, the first Norwegian settlers in this community, as in all new communities, had but very little spiritual guidance; but having been brought up as true Lutherans they loved their Bible, their hymn book, and their little Luther's Catechism. These books were their chief devotional books and they treasured them highly. As to public worship, they had little because of the lack of ordained ministers. The only time they could assemble for public worship was when occasionally some minister from some eastern community, on his missionary journey would visit them and conduct services in some private home. Then they would hear the gospel of Christ preached unto them, have their children baptized, and partake of the Lord's supper. To them the gospel of Christ sounded sweet.

May 5, 1873, a congregation was organized under the name of "Our Savior's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Renville and Redwood Counties," and was

composed of Norwegians in this vicinity of the western part of this county, and also of Redwood county. The pastor, Rev. J. E. Bergh, preached at various places in private homes and later on in the school house in Renville. It soon became apparent, however, that with so large a territory the pastor could not give the people as many services as they wished; hence, in the early eighties the Norwegians in Renville and vicinity began thinking of forming a congregation of their own, a thought which was realized in 1886. At a legally called meeting on October 25, 1886, the articles of incorporation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Renville were adopted and officers elected. The following persons made up the first board of directors:

President, Rev. J. E. Bergh; secretary and treasurer, L. Pederson; trustee for one year, C. Carlson; trustee for two years, Jacob Olson Dahle; trustee for three years, Hans Olson Lilligaard.

In the year 1887 steps were taken towards the building of a church. In the early part of 1888 the present lots owned by the church were purchased and as soon as funds could be provided a church erected. The congregation prospered steadily, but was struck a heavy blow in the summer of 1894 when a cyclone came and totally destroyed the little church. The members were not dismayed, but took hold with renewed energy to rebuild the church, having full confidence that God would prosper their undertaking. In a short time a new structure took the place of the old one. This church property has been improved from time to time. In 1913 about \$1,500 was spent for improvements on the church building; during the summer of 1915 about \$800 was spent for improvements on the parsonage.

The present officers of the congregation are as follows: President, Rev. Gilbert Oppen; vice-president, L. E. Lien; secretary, Gurin Kvernes; treasurer, O. J. Dahle; trustee, P. J. Wigdahl, Hans Jepson, Lars Kroulokken.

The following pastors have served the congregation: Rev. P. A. Kittelsby, 1891-1894; Rev. A. J. Torgerson, 1895-1896; Rev. H. Solum, 1896-1899; Rev. Nils Giere, 1899-1904; Rev. M. C. Waller, 1904-1908; Rev. T. L. Rosholt, 1909-1911; Rev. Gilbert Oppen, 1912.

The congregation has always realized that the religious instruction of the children is something the church must provide, and consequently as early as 1889 a Sunday school was organized and has ever since been kept up, doing its mission among the children.

A young people's society has always been actively at work in the congregation, doing its mission among the young. The ladies' aid was the first organization within the congregation, being organized as early as 1887. The ladies' aid has been one of

the chief promoters of the church and has been at all times actively at work promoting the cause of both home and foreign missions.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN.

Zion's Church of Olivia. (By Rev. H. Hupfer.) The German Evangelical Lutheran Zion's church of Olivia was organized in 1887. The charter members were: W. Windhorst, C. Nelson, K. Korschnik, H. Dahlman, W. Yungk, P. Nelsen, N. Nelsen, J. Nelsen, F. Voelz, W. Speier, C. Nelsen, Jr., and L. Backhaus. The first services were held in the old public schoolhouse by Rev. G. Fischer. In 1899 the first church was erected and dedicated at Olivia, and in 1903 the parsonage was purchased. In addition to the church a parochial school is maintained by the parish. The pastors who have served this congregation are as follows: G. Fisher, 1887-1896; H. Albrecht, 1897-1899; G. Albrecht, 1899-1903; P. Heidtke, 1903-1904; C. Schrader, 1904-1908; H. Hupfer, 1908 to the present time. The church records show that there have been 265 births, thirty-four marriages, and forty-five deaths.

St. Matthew's Church of Danube. (By Rev. H. Hupfer.) The German Evangelical Lutheran Matthew church of Danube, Minn., was organized June 17, 1904, by the following: Gust. Miller (chairman); Folkert Hinrichs (secretary); Gust. Miller (treasurer); Fred Zinne, Louis Miller, Carl Laumer (elders); Henry Heineman, Edmund E. Grunnert, Albert Kuether (trustees); Henry U. Hinrichs, Otto Thoms, J. F. Hinrichs, L. C. Hinrichs, A. Wallert, W. Knigge, V. Hinrichs. A church was erected and dedicated in 1905. The following pastors have served this congregation: Rev. C. Schrader, 1904-1908; H. Hupfer, 1908 to the present time. The records of the church show that there have been eighty-eight births, twenty-two marriages and sixteen deaths.

Bethania Church of Emmet. The German Evangelical Lutheran Bethania church of Emmet was organized in 1875 by Rev. J. Hunziker. The first members were: F. Putenhoff, J. Brettin, J. Benzin, H. Freudenthal, H. Fritz, J. Gens, K. Gluth, G. Grabow, Aug. Hussak, J. Joch, Aug. Kaatz, K. Kannenberg, F. Kraemin, F. Kopiska, Ferd. Lenz, H. Miller, Aug. Rauschke, Julius Rauschke, K. Reetz, A. Roschild, Aug. Roschild, H. Standfuss and K. Zaske. During the first year services were held in private homes and public schoolhouses. In 1879 the congregation erected a parsonage, which was used as a schoolhouse and place of holding worship. In 1886 the congregation purchased forty acres of land at \$6 an acre. On this a new church, 30 by 50 feet, and a new parsonage were built. In 1892 a new schoolhouse, 18 by 26 feet, was built. The property is now valued at between \$10,000 and \$12,000, entirely free from debt. The congregation consists of

sixty families. The pastors have been the Rev. Messrs. J. Hunziker, H. Kreuter, F. Spindler, G. Fischer, and the present pastor, Rev. G. Albrecht, who has served since 1897. The congregation belongs to the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Minnesota and other states. (Written by the Rev. G. Albrecht.)

St. Matthaeus Church of Flora. The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Matthaeus church of Flora was organized in 1872 by Rev. J. Hunziker. The first members were: Chr. Sperber, P. Binger, L. Wohlmann, Chr. Schaefer, Ferd. Breitkreutz, J. Beckendorf, K. Beckendorf, and Aug. Uhlig. In 1875 the congregation became affiliated with Bethania congregation, and the same pastors have served both congregations. Until 1887, services were held in a public schoolhouse. The same year a new church was erected. At present the congregation consists of thirty families. The congregation belongs to the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Minnesota and other states. (Written by the Rev. G. Albrecht.)

St. Paul's Church of Hector. (By Rev. H. W. Krull.) The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's church of Hector was organized October 7, 1888, by Rev. C. H. Hilpert, of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Minnesota, who served as its pastor for nearly two years. The charter members were: Andrew Schwarzkopf, John Sauter, Fred J. Hilpert, Herman Schmalz, Leonard Rice, John Rice, Emil Sauter. Mrs. Kuni-gunda Rice, one of the early members, is still living. The first services were held in the home of John Rice, Sr., now deceased. For four years services were held in the public school houses and private dwellings. In 1892 the present church, a roomy frame building, was erected three miles from Hector in Melville township. In 1901 the church was moved into the village and in 1912 a large school house was erected on the same block on which the church stands. During the summer of 1913 a modern parsonage was erected next to the church. At the dedication of this, on September 28, 1913, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the congregation was also celebrated with proper services. Since June 29, 1913, services have been conducted in the English language regularly every alternate Sunday. During 1891 Rev. Peter Wuebben, of Stewart, Minn., served it. Since then it has been served by pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio. From the summer of 1892 till the autumn of 1897 E. Knorr, of Buffalo Lake, served the congregation. From December 1, 1897, to April 1, 1900, L. H. Kettner, of Brookfield township, was the pastor. From then until August, 1903, Emil Schalinske was the resident pastor. His successor was Rudolph Bergfeldt, who served until August, 1906. L. H. Kettner then again served it with the aid of theological students of St. Paul, Minn., until July 1, 1909, when the present pastor, H. W.

Krull, then a student of theology at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, was called and has served it ever since. Some of the prominent members are: John H. Rice, Albert Witte, John Ehlers, Carl Beske, Fred G. Maschke, Henry Laffin, Fred Tesch, Diegrich and Henry W. Koehler, Fred Foesch, Fred Lindekugel. The congregation at present is thirty-seven voting members and about 180 communicant members.

Trinity Church of Brookfield. (By Rev. L. Kettner.) The German Lutheran Trinity church of Brookfield, Minn., is located in section 11, township of Brookfield. The first service was held in the farm house of William Mutchler by Rev. L. Kettner. The congregation was organized in the spring of 1895 by Rev. Emil Knorr. Following are the names of the charter members: Henry Elling, William Mutchler, Albert Hoefs, Henry Wehking, Carl Bretzke, Henry Brede, Albert Elling, Christian Rockeman, William Wehking, Henry Hoecke, Gustave Boettcher and Ferdinand Bahr. The church building was erected in 1900 and dedicated in September, 1900. The parsonage was erected in 1897. The present membership of this congregation consists of seventy-five families. The present pastor, has served the congregation since its organization.

Zion's Church of Buffalo Lake. (By Rev. R. A. Schmidt.) The German Evangelical Lutheran Zion's church of Buffalo Lake was organized in the public school house of that village January 1, 1886, by Rev. Jacob Frey, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Moltke township, Sibley county, Minnesota. The charter members who signed the first constitution were Carl Steglich, John C. Riebe, William Gerber, Carl Haman, William Matzdorf, H. J. Blomendahl, William Rnsch, William Lueck, Edward Wohlfarth, Ferdinand Knopke, Wilhelm Knopke, Herman Schmalz, Ulrich Buehler, Ida Gruen, Friedrich Hilsberg, Friedrich Schwarz, Paul Totz, William Goebel, Friedrich Hoefs, Friedrich Schoenemann, Conrad Blomendahl and Edward Thieling. Of these twenty-two charter members only two, namely, Friedrich Schwartz, who is an old veteran soldier eighty-seven years old, and Friedrich Hilsberg, are at present writing still members of the congregation. All the others have either died or moved away to other locations. The first meetings were held in the public school house. In 1891 a church building was erected on Main street and known as the Evangelical Lutheran Zion's church. The following pastors took part in the dedication exercises: Rev. George Dumer, of Brownton, Minn., and Rev. E. Hermann, of Round Grove, Minn. The church is a stately edifice and reflects great credit on those few members who built it. For a short time the congregation was served by Rev. Malchow and by Rev. J. W. Wuebben, of Round Grove. In the fall of 1892 E. Knorr, a candidate of theology

from the Luther Seminary at St. Paul was called and duly installed as pastor of the congregation. Rev. E. Knorr was a very able and ambitious man and served the congregation with much zeal and self-sacrifice. Under his pastorate the membership grew steadily, the debts of the church were paid off a handsome parsonage built, a new pipe organ of the firm Vogelpohl & Spaith, of New Ulm, Minn., was installed, a cemetery purchased and other improvements were made. He died March 24, 1903, much mourned by his congregation.

April 1, 1903, the present incumbent, Rev. R. A. Schmidt, of Holloway, Swift county, Minn., was called as pastor of the congregation, which has continued to prosper. Two small affiliated congregations, one at Martinsburg, the other at Grafton, discontinued the services in their respective places of worship and joined the main congregation in a body. A parish school house has been built and all the buildings of the congregation are in good condition. The congregation at present consists of ninety voting members, fifteen contributing members, 320 communicants and 496 souls. The value of the church property is about \$10,000. The present officers of the congregation are J. C. Nagel, president; Peter Ulrich, secretary; Gottlieb Quast, Gustav Koebnick, Herman Mueller, elders; and John Quast, William Ulrich, Fred Henske, trustees. The congregation is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and other states.

St. John's Church of Fairfax. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church, of Fairfax, was organized in March, 1879, by Rev. C. F. Helpert with eleven members—John Albrecht, Paul Albrecht, Robert Wiehr, Gust Rinner, William Borth, Sr., Fr. Fehlhaver, George Guggisberg, Fr. Helpert, G. Hoepner, John Severin and Albert Wiehr, the first four being still resident members.

The first services were held in the district school building and later at the house of John Albrecht.

From 1891 to 1895 the local church was presided over by the pastors of the Ridgely Lutheran church, Rev. Synleius Fischer and Rev. John Eidel.

In 1893, under the pastorate of Rev. Fischer, the local church was built, being dedicated June 11, 1893, by Rev. C. J. Albrecht, of New Ulm.

Rev. H. Nannmann, now of Wood Lake, and president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Minnesota, was pastor of the church from 1895 to 1900, and from 1896 to 1898 he had for an assistant at this place the Rev. Ernest Scherf. The church at that time had a membership of seventeen.

In 1900 the congregation extended a call to Rev. Im. F. Albrecht, of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. The gentleman was formerly of New Ulm and was the son of Rev. Albrecht, pastor of the German Lutheran church of that city and one of the big men in the German Lutheran work.

When young Mr. Albrecht assumed charge of the work in Fairfax the affairs of the church were not in the most flourishing condition. He soon demonstrated his worth as a pastor and during the past few years he has received numerous calls to larger fields of endeavor but the local people refuse to part with him. Although primarily an orator in the German language Rev. Albrecht's English discourses are very instructive and entertaining. His geniality and sterling character have won for him a host of friends outside the confines of his own congregation. Rev. Albrecht was the first resident pastor of his church. He has demonstrated that he has capacity for business as the material affairs of his church have prospered splendidly under his management. A handsome new parsonage was erected in 1905. A tract of 40 acres of land for cemetery purposes has also been purchased during the past few years.

In 1900 Rev. Albrecht established a parochial school which he taught himself for a number of years, but for the past four years the school has been conducted by a special teacher. Prof. H. G. Meyer was the teacher last year. Fifty-two pupils were enrolled during the year. Otto Boerneke, of Hutchinson, has been selected as principal of the school for 1912-13.

At the present time there are 103 families connected with the church, with 440 members, 260 communicants and 62 voting members.

The present officers of the church are: Paul Albrecht, president; Carl Laub, secretary; William Kiehn, treasurer; board of trustees and deacons, John Albrecht, Henry Clobes, Louis Dickmeyer, William Kiehn and William Sommer. Organist, Meta Dickmeyer.

The church has the following auxiliary organizations: Ladies' aid, with a membership of forty and the following officers: Mrs. Fred Leng, president; Mrs. Louis Wellner, vice-president; Mrs. H. Hindermann, secretary; Mrs. C. W. Heimann, treasurer; Mrs. Albert Briese, collector, and Mrs. F. Wendoff, reader.

The church has a mixed choir of 25 voices and a church orchestra of 14 numbers, both directed by the pastor.

The early part of 1915 the German Lutheran congregation in charge of the Rev. Im. F. Albrecht let the contract for a large and beautiful edifice. The building is erected near the parsonage and the parochial school of that congregation, and is one of the architectural ornaments of the town.

St. John's Church of Osceola. (By Rev. H. W. Krull.) The German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's church, of Osceola township, was organized June 7, 1892, at the home of Frank Voigt, living in that township. It was organized by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states. The first pastor was Rev. Carl Dreyer, who served the congregation

from his home at Geneva, Minn. The charter members were Henry J. Jungclaus, Henry Kahle, Karl Lehrke, August Ehrenberg, Frank Voigt, John Homann, Gustav Wegner, Fred Alisch and Wilhelm Ehrenberg. During the first seven years the congregation held its meetings in the public school houses. In 1897 the congregation joined the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and other states and during the summer of 1899 the first church, a modest little frame building, was erected, being dedicated in September of that year. Michael Grimm had presented the congregation with a two-acre tract of land upon which they erected the church and laid out the cemetery. During the summer of 1911 a fine large frame church building, equipped with modern fixtures, was built on the northeast corner of the northeast quarter of section 33, Osceola township. The cornerstone was laid April 30, and the church was dedicated August 20, 1911. The old church is now used for school purposes, affording ample room also for meetings and gatherings. From 1897 to 1902, during which time Rev. L. Kettner, of Brookfield township, this county, served this congregation, it composed one parish with the congregation of Brookfield. January 4, 1902, the congregation united into one parish with the German Evangelical Lutheran congregation at Bird Island. From that date until the fall of 1905, Rev. Jacob Dachsteine, of Bird Island, served the congregation. Rev. Rudolph Bergfeldt, of Hector, served it for one year after that. All the Lutheran pastors of the neighborhood having left the congregation found itself again obliged to call Rev. L. Kettner, of Brookfield. With the aid of several theological students of St. Paul, Minn., he served it for nearly three years. January 28, 1909, H. W. Krull, a student of theology at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., was called. He served it as a student until after his graduation. On Palm Sunday, April 5, 1909, he delivered his first sermon, but was not installed as regular pastor until July 11, 1909, after his graduation. He has served it regularly ever since, making his home at Hector, there being no parsonage of this congregation. At present the congregation consists of forty families, among whom may be mentioned: H. J. Jungclaus, Henry Broderius, Albert E., Fred O. and Elzie A. Grimm, Alvin Enzenauer and Henry Sing. The first elders and deacons were Henry J. Jungclaus, John Homann, August Ehrenberg and August Wegner. The present elders are H. J. Jungclaus, Albert E. Grimm, Carl Schroeder and John Homann. The secretary is Frank Stamer.

Zion's Church of Morton. (By Louis Zinne.) The German Lutheran Zion's congregation of Morton was organized in 1887 by Rev. Jakob Bauer, of Sanborn, Minn. The first services were held in the public school house about every second or third

Sunday of the month, Rev. Jakob Bauer coming thirty miles from Sanborn, where he had a congregation. He received \$100 per year from the Morton congregation. The first members were Louis Zinne, H. M. Noak, Carl Walters, August Vogel, Christ Blume, Henry Blume, William L. Lussenhof, William Schublen, Edward Homier. The first trustees were Louis Zinne, treasurer; H. M. Noak, secretary, and Carl Walters. In 1888 the congregation built a church 24 by 46, with a steeple about eighty feet in height, the building costing \$1,400. The contract for the erection of the church was awarded J. P. Thery and was built on the out-lot of Bueroy's addition of Morton. The church was dedicated June 28, 1888, the following pastors taking part in the services: Rev. Bauer, of Morton, Rev. Hilpert, of Fairfax, and Prof. Sanders of Dr. Martin Luther College, of New Ulm, Minn. Besides the above mentioned early members there were about five to seven families who attended church from time to time but were not members.

In 1893 Rev. J. Bauer resigned and Rev. G. Fisher, of Ft. Ridgely, Minn., was called as pastor. He made his home at Ft. Ridgely, where he had a congregation, and served Morton about every second or third Sunday of the month. In 1896 Rev. G. Fisher accepted a call to Germany and Rev. Henry Schemperlen, of Ft. Ridgely, was called to serve the Morton congregation, coming every second or third Sunday of the month. The membership had increased slightly during these years. At that time the trustees were Louis Zinne, treasurer, Carl Walters, secretary, August Vogel.

In 1898 Rev. H. Schemperlen resigned and a call was extended to Rev. Henry Koch, who was pastor in Redwood Falls, Minn. He preached in Morton every second Sunday of the month and conducted school two days every week during the winter. In 1899 the church membership had increased to twenty-eight members and the congregation decided that they were strong enough to support a pastor of their own. The same year they decided to build a parsonage. The building committee consisted of John Orth, Carl Walters and Gottlieb Herman. Peter Gash was given the contract for the erection and completion of the parsonage and the house was built on the out-lots one and two in Orth's addition to Morton, 32 by 32 feet, with a stone basement and constructed of solid brick. The same year a barn 14 by 22 feet was built, the total cost of the house and barn being \$3,000. When the house was completed the congregation asked the pastor to come and live at Morton, which he did, and served Redwood Falls from Morton. In 1900 Rev. H. Koch received a call from Wisconsin and resigned from his pastorate at Morton and Redwood Falls. Rev. Paul Henderer, of Goodhue, Minn., was his successor and lived at Morton and served Redwood Falls every two weeks,

receiving a salary of \$200 from Morton and \$150 from Redwood Falls. In 1901 Rev. P. Henderer accepted a call to go to Good Thunder, Minn. By this time the membership of the congregation had decreased considerably, owing to the great expense involved in building the parsonage. About fourteen members withdrew from the congregation. The trustees at that time were Louis Zinne, treasurer August Lothart, secretary and August Vogel.

For about eight months Rev. Im. F. Albrecht, of Fairfax, served the congregation every second Sunday. Then later in the same year, 1901, Morton and Redwood Falls congregations extended a call to Rev. John Paustian at Milwaukee, Wis. On account of the small membership of Morton congregation they were unable to raise enough salary to have the pastor live there and he made his home at Redwood Falls, serving Morton every two weeks, and the parsonage was rented out to private families. Rev. John Paustian conducted parochial school in Redwood Falls. In 1908 he accepted a call to Wisconsin and for about six months Rev. Im. Albrecht from Fairfax again served Morton. The same year Rev. Adelbert Schuller was called. He had just graduated from college and was the son of Prof. Schuller, of Dr. Martin Luther's College at New Ulm, Minn. He made his home at Redwood Falls and conducted parochial school there. The trustees of 1910 were Louis Zinne, August Lothart, William Wetzel. The membership has since increased, there being now thirty-six families, and since the congregation has lately paid their last indebtedness on the property they are planning to have the pastor live at Morton again. The trustees at present are Louis Zinne, treasurer, Herman Lussenhop, secretary, and William Lothart. Amelia Walter is the organist and Carl Walter, janitor. Last year the congregation installed a new organ at a cost of \$280. Every year they have a mission festival and the collections received at that time, amounting to from \$30 to \$75, are given to the missions.

The congregation is a member of the Minnesota Synod. Last year the congregation celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary and the following pastors were present at the services: Rev. Henry Koch, of Appleton, Wis.; Rev. John Paustian, of West Salem, Wis.; Rev. Jakob Bauer, of Morgan, Minn.; Rev. Im. Albrecht and choir of Fairfax, Minn., and the present pastor, Rev. Adelbert Schuller, of Redwood Falls.

St. Imanuel's Church of Wellington. (By Rev. E. G. Fritz.) The Evangelical Lutheran St. Imanuel's church of Wellington township, Renville County, Minnesota, is located in the center of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 23. The first service of this denomination was held February 6, 1879, at the house of Edward Kiecker. Rudolph Paschke,

Julius Kiecker and Michael Karan were elected as elders and Albert L. Kiecker, Otto Kiecker, Wilhelm Freyholtz as trustees. The first church and parsonage, the latter upstairs and the former downstairs, was built in 1880 on section 24, southwest quarter. In 1889 the second church was built on the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 23. It was 58 by 30 by 16 feet, with a steeple seventy-five feet in height and was dedicated October 6, 1889. In 1914 an addition was built at the rear of the church, 16 by 12 feet. The second parsonage was erected in 1892. The old church building was turned into a school house, where a ten months' term of parochial school was conducted by the minister of the church. In 1908, however, a teacher, John Raedecke, was called, who served the congregation for two years. During the next two years Rev. Jul. Engel taught the school. In 1912 and 1913, A. Spaude and John Laub, students, assisted the pastor with this work. In 1914 Gust. Wachter, a teacher, was called and the school work has been in his charge ever since. The first pastors were Rev. Heinrich Albrecht and Rev. Vollmar, who both lived in New Auburn. Rev. J. Grabarke-witz was the first pastor who lived in the township and he was succeeded by Rev. C. F. Hilpert, Rev. Jul. Engel, and Rev. E. G. Fritz, who has been there since August, 1912. The present elders are Herman Schmechel and Reibnard Kiecker and August Wendt, Robert Freyholtz and Chas. W. Dallman are the present trustees. The school board is composed of Fred Kiecker, Anton Kiecker and Julius Dettman. Gust. Freyholtz is the secretary of the church and Robert Kiecker, Sr., treasurer. The sexton is E. A. Fritz, who has served for some time.

Some of the early baptisms on record are those of Albert Ernst August Borth, born July 4, 1880, baptized August 1, 1880; Clara Bertha Augusta Voecks, born December 6, 1880; Hugo Herman Adolf Kiecker, born February 10, 1881, and Emil Adolf Fritz, born August 10, 1881.

The first burial was that of Bernhard Bnboltz, the infant son of Carl and Paulina (Rehbein) Bnboltz, born August 1, 1881, and died January 18, 1882. Other early burials were: Gottfried Borth, born July 2, 1806, died November 26, 1884; August Kiecker, born April 1, 1821, died March 28, 1885; and John Daniel Schmechel, born August 25, 1808, died July 30, 1885.

Some of the first marriages were: Carl Bnboltz to Paulina Rehbein, December 10, 1880; Gustav Lehmann to Paulina Witt, January 20, 1881; and Julius Dettmann to Wilhelmina Hillmann, March 31, 1881.

The first cemetery was on section 24, but after the church was moved to section 23 a cemetery was laid out next to the church.

St. John's Church of Renville. (By Rev. Rud. P. Korn.) The Evangelical Lutheran St. John's church, of Renville, Minn., was organized on the 13th day of June in the year 1886. The German Lutherans of Renville and vicinity who constituted the congregation at that time were the Messrs. C. F. Diekow, August Penke, Claus Postal, August Hanemann, L. Hanemann, Gust. Dusterhoff, William Goetz, Fred Leistikow, Gust. Herrman and Albert Bratsch.

In the first years the Rev. G. Fisher, of Emmett, conducted services, the services being held in the old public school house, now serving as city hall. Two years later, however, the Renville congregation decided to become independent of the Emmet congregation, and together with the Winfield congregation extended a call to the Rev. P. Burkholz, of Stillwater, Minn. Rev. Burkholz accepted this call and entered upon his duties here in the spring of the year 1889. At this time plans were made for erecting a church and shortly after the arrival of the Rev. Burkholz the cornerstone for the church was laid. In the fall of the same year the building was ready for dedication. October 20, 1889, the church was dedicated. In the same year a parsonage and barn also were built.

After five years of active work in Renville, the Rev. Burkholz was granted his dismissal, he having received a call to another congregation near Milwaukee, Wis. The Rev. Henry Albrecht, the nephew of the Rev. G. Albrecht, present pastor of the Emmet congregation, was then called. During his time here the parsonage was remodeled and enlarged to its present dimensions. In 1899 Rev. Albrecht accepted a call to Litchfield, Minn.

The Rev. W. Ullrich was the next pastor. He came here in the spring of 1899, but stayed only a few years. In the year 1902 he left with his family for Germany to take charge of a congregation there.

The Rev. M. Schuetze was then called and took up his ministerial work here in the spring of 1903. In the following year the church building was moved from the corner to its present location. A large basement was dug south of its old location and the building moved on the same. This basement is used for school and assembly room. Besides the basement added to the church, a niche for the new altar was added to the rear of the church, a balcony built along the west end of the church, and a bell placed in the belfry. A new entrance was also built. All these improvements taken together made this edifice the spacious and neat appearing church as any in Renville.

The Rev. M. Schuetze was pastor of the Renville congregation almost ten years. Near the close of 1912 Rev. Schuetze received a call from the congregation at Ellsworth, Minn. After having extended a number of calls unsuccessfully, the congre-

gation secured the services of the Rev. Rud. P. Korn, of Rising City, Nebr., who took charge of the congregation in April, 1913. With his coming here English preaching has been introduced and conducted with success. English services are being conducted about once a month at present. With the installation of electric lights in Renville, the church and parsonage also were wired. This spring the buildings received a fresh coat of paint. The congregation today has a membership of 65 voting members and 250 communicants. Those who were active in organizing the German Lutheran congregation twenty-nine years ago and are still active members of this congregation are the Messrs. C. F. Diekow, Gust. Dusterhoff, William Goetz, Fred Leistikow, and Gust. Herrman. The officers of the congregation are: Ernst Hoffmann, president; Julius Klatt, secretary; William Goetz, Sr., treasurer. Other members of the church board are August Wilcken, C. Zabel, Gust. Stern, Paul Dusterhoff, Edward Goetz, J. Schemmel and Albert Tolzmann. Rud. P. Korn is the present pastor.

FINNISH LUTHERAN.

The Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church. The first services of the Finnish Apostolic Lutheran church were held at the home of Mathias M. Johnson, Camp township, in the year 1875 by Jacob Wuollet, of Cokato, Minn. He was accompanied by Isaac Barber and John P. Marttala, also from the same village. Those who took part in the early services were Mathias Johnson, Sr., Michael Heikka, Mrs. Marjaleena Anderson, Mrs. John Wuoppola, all of whom are deceased. Others who took part in these early services were Ole Johnson and wife, of Fort Ridgely; Mathias N. Johnson and wife, of Franklin, Minn., and the Lahti and Bogema families. The church was organized in about 1880, with the following as charter members: Mathias Johnson, Sr., Michael Heikka, Nels Folk, Nels Helppie, Benjamin Wohn, Andrew Anderson, John P. Marttala, all of whom are deceased. Among those still living are Sakarias Erickson, Oscar Isaacson, Isaac Sakari, Ole Johnson, J. A. Bogema, Mathias Mikkelsen, Peter Stonelake and Herman Johnson. The church building was erected in 1885 in the township of Camp. In 1905 a small addition was built. The following have served as elders: Sakaris Erickson, 1878-1889; John P. Marttala, 1890-1909; Isaac W. Rovainen, 1910-1915; Oscar Isaacson, for many years assistant elder, 1915. Among the first marriages in this congregation were: Michael Heikka to Mary Johnson, Mathias Johnson to Albertina Friska, J. Abraham Bogema to Rikka Kyro, of Cokato. Early records show the following births: Hilda J. Lahti, 1867; Margaret Anderson, 1870; Emma J. Johnson, 1870, and Henry Heikka, 1872. Among the early deaths are recorded those of An-

drew Anderson, 1868; Matti A. Maunn, 1870; Eva M. Bogema, 1882; Rigina Johnson, 1877, and Gustav Friska, 1873.

SWEDISH CHRISTIAN MISSION.

The Winfield Church of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America. (By C. H. Dahlgren.) This church is located on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 9, township of Winfield. The first services of this congregation were held in 1886 at the school house in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 10, by Rev. C. S. Skoog. The congregation was organized in 1888 and among some of the first members may be mentioned: Mr. and Mrs. John Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Turnquist, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Snoren, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nyquist, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Dahlgren, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Hedberg, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Kingstrom, and Andrew Erickson. The church was built in 1895 and a parsonage was erected in 1897. Other prominent members of the past are: Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Berg, Mr. and Mrs. Gust. Ahlstrand, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Bonander, Mr. and Mrs. John Bonander, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Olive, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lindquist, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tanquist, Mrs. August Sjöberg, Mrs. C. O. Peterson, Anna Nyquist, Selma Kingström and Anna Kingström. Among the present members may be mentioned the following: Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Turnquist, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kingström, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nyquist, Mr. and Mrs. John Snicker, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Kingström, Mrs. Alfred Erickson, Mrs. Emma O. Dahlgren, Ellen Kingström, Albert Kingström and C. H. Dahlgren.

The following have served this congregation: Rev. N. I. Nelson, 1889-1891; Rev. Gust. Anderson, 1892-1893; Rev. K. E. Peterson, 1894-1899; Rev. August Sjöberg, 1900-1903; Rev. C. O. Peterson, 1904-1907; Rev. P. A. Ström, 1908-1909; Rev. Gust. Johnson, 1910-1913; Rev. Andrew Berg, 1913-1915.

During the later years the congregation has decreased in membership, many moving away to other places, and it has found itself unable to support a local pastor. Since 1908 the parsonage has not been in use by a pastor and last year was sold and moved away. The pastor at Palmyra serves the congregation once a month.

SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Svedlanda Church of Palmyra. (By Rev. A. Bengtson.) The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Svedlanda Church of Palmyra is a member of the Evangelical Augustana Synod of North America. The first services of this local church were held on June 24, 1873, at one of the pioneer homes of Palmyra. These services were conducted by the lay-preacher, Malkan Egbom, who still resides at Dawson, Minnesota. The

Svedlanda church was organized in the year 1874 with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hokanson, Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Bergman, Mr. and Mrs. Ola Knutson, Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Johan Berndt Anderson, Peter Anderson, Anna Lena Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Andreas Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Herder Larson, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Borje Johanson, Andreas Jonson, Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Anderson, Andrew W. Anderson, Andrew Anderson, A. P. Anderson, Johanna Lena Anderson.

Due the circumstances that the documents of incorporation were lost when a cyclone destroyed the home of the secretary of the organization it was deemed wise to hold a meeting for the purpose of re-issuing these so important papers. This was done at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Johnson, December 4, 1878, the Reverend Svante Anderson presiding, T. Johnson serving as secretary. The following board of trustees were elected: John B. Anderson, John B. Johnson, August Johnson.

In 1889 the first church building was erected which, with a number of marked improvements, still serves the congregation as their place of worship. Until 1905 this church together with the Swedish Lutheran church at Hector formed a joint parish, the pastor, the Reverend J. G. Kallberg, residing at Hector. In 1905 this union was severed and the Svedlanda church proceeded to call its own pastor and to erect, directly opposite the church, a parsonage. The Reverend A. Bengtson, the present pastor, moved into the new parsonage in the fall of 1905.

During the first fourteen years after the organization of the church there was no permanent pastor, visiting pastors and theological students filling the pulpit for short periods. Of these the Reverends A. Jackson and R. S. Nystrom served the church the longest. The permanent pastors of the Svedlanda church are: The Reverends Svante Anderson, now retired, L. P. Bergstrom, now of Winnipeg, Canada, J. G. Kallberg, Hector, and A. Bengtson, the present pastor.

The Fridsberg's Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of the town of Crooks is located on the northeast quarter of section 4. The congregation was organized September 27, 1893, and the first service was held in schoolhouse No. 52 by Rev. J. Randahl. Rev. N. Forsander was also one of the early pastors who served this church. Among the early members may be mentioned Gustaf Carlson, Chas. Carlson, and Elias Janson. A church building was erected in 1897 and the church was incorporated January 18, 1898, the trustees at that time being Otto F. Carlson, John Swenson and L. P. Johnson. The incorporators were A. F. Nelson and Gust. An-

derson. Some of the present members are August Falk, August Johnson and Olaf Bryngetson. The present pastor is Rev. C. O. Bergquist. (By Rev. C. O. Bergquist.)

The Swedish Lutheran church of Olivia. The First Swedish Lutheran church was organized July 15, 1890, and incorporated under its present name March 4, 1891, at the schoolhouse of Olivia, by the following persons: J. O. Lundberg and N. P. Peterson, chairman and clerk, respectively. The first board of trustees were: Andrew G. Thurston, C. B. Carlson, and N. P. Peterson. Among the charter members may be mentioned: John C. Barker, John Miller, Sr., Charles Johnson, Andrew Thurston and Peter Olson. The first officers were Deacons John Miller, Sr., John Barker, and Peter Olson. The services were held in the schoolhouse until October, 1915, when the new church building recently completed was taken into use. It has a full basement, modern heating plant, light and water, and is finished with stucco finish outside and ornamental steel finish inside. A modern parsonage costing \$3,000 was erected in 1902. The present deacons are: R. P. Peterson, Erick Johnson, Erick Erickson. The trustees are Nels Swanson, Olof Bohman and A. N. Nelson. The present pastor is Rev. C. O. Bergquist.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Hector was organized in 1890. A church was erected in 1892 and the parsonage was built in 1901. The present pastor is Rev. J. G. Kallberg.

MORAVIAN.

Elim Moravian Church. (By Rev. I. Richard Mewaldt.) The first Moravian services in Melville township were held by the Rev. Theodore Sondermann of Carver county, Minnesota, who in 1880 came up occasionally to conduct services in the homes of Moravians who had settled in Melville township a short time previous. The Elim Moravian congregation was organized February 7, 1882. The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. August Hedtke, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kirchner, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Zupke, Mr. and Mrs. William Wolff, Charles, Otto, David and Anna Wolff. The church was erected in Melville township in 1882 and dedicated July 23, of the same year. The same building is still in use. There is no parsonage in connection with this parish. The pastor used to live in Hector, but at present he is a resident of Bird Island and serves the Bird Island Union charge in connection with Elim. The following pastors have served the congregation: Reverend Messrs. Theodore Sondermann, Henry Reusswig, Allen E. Abel, Augustus F. Floetz, C. A. Meilicke, Rudolph J. Grabow, C. V. Seifert, W. C. Schattschneider, C. R. Meinert and I. Richard Mewaldt. The first baptism after

the organization of the congregation was that of Alma Lydia Wolff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Wolff; the first marriage was that of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wolff; and the first death was that of George E. Wolff, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wolff. The Elim congregation owns a church farm of forty acres located to the east of the church building.

The Hector Moravian Congregation was the outgrowth of the Elim Moravian Congregation in Melville township. The Elim congregation was organized by the Rev. Theodore Sondermann of Carver county, February 7, 1882. Five years later, January 18, 1887, the Hector congregation was organized by the Rev. Henry Reusswig with the following charter members: Rev. and Mrs. Henry Reusswig, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Raitz, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Raitz, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Weber, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Maag, Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. Berthold Albert, Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Koehler, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scheel, Theo. Albert, Carl Schug, Mrs. Otto Wolff, Mrs. Waldo Lovering, Lydia Maag and Johanna Koehler.

The first marriage performed in the Hector church was that of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wolff, on February 26, 1890. The first burial in the old Moravian cemetery was that of Arthur Stengel, son of the Rev. C. W. Stengel. The cemetery now known as the Moravian cemetery was dedicated June 29, 1890, the same day that the Rev. Henry Reusswig was buried in it. The deed of the cemetery is vested with "The Board of Elders of the Northern Diocese of the Church of the United Brethren in the United States of America."

The Bird Island Union Church is composed of the remnants of the Methodist Episcopal church organized about 1880, and the Bird Island Baptist church, organized about 1881. While they have not effected a permanent organization they are holding union meetings in the Methodist church, under the pastorate of the Rev. I. Richard Mewaldt, who is also pastor of the Elim Moravian church of Melville township. The Union congregation has a strong Sunday school and a live Ladies' Aid society.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.

The First Christian Church of Renville county located at Vicksburg, has a most interesting history. It was organized May 6, 1871, the organizers being R. W. Davis, P. A. Lawson, C. R. Eldridge, Harry Thompson, Christopher Burch, Pleasant Johnson, Mrs. Lydia Lawson, Mrs. Martha Thompson, Sarah J. Larson and Mrs. Mariah Burch. P. A. Lawson was the first chairman and permanent pastor, other preachers supplying the pulpit from time to time. R. W. Davis was the first secretary. The first trustees were Christopher Burch, C. R. Eldridge and Robert W. Dean.

A prominent factor in the story of this church was Simeon Burch. He owned the farm at the top of the hill above Vicksburg. All clergymen who passed the neighborhood were welcomed at his home, and Methodist and Disciple services were often held there. After the church was erected he still continued to entertain the clergymen. The church was built on his land at the brow of the hill. This church, now a dwelling house, is still standing. The cemetery was laid out nearby, and is still in existence. The schoolhouse was also located a few rods away. The schoolhouse is now located elsewhere. Under the hill, just south of the Burch farm, was the little village of Vicksburg with its store, sawmill and blacksmith shop. The church at Olivia was in reality the result of the church at Vicksburg. Perry Burch and George Burch, both pioneers, who underwent all the privations of frontier life, were prime movers in the Olivia church, giving it the fullest measure of their devotion. Perry Burch was an especially active and devoted worker in the cause. Both men are now dead, Perry Burch dying in California and George Burch in Oregon. The church at Olivia is now discontinued, its members are dead or scattered, and the building is converted into a dwelling house.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL.

The protestant Episcopal church has two small but thriving parishes in the county, one at Olivia and one at Morton. The parishes are served from the Twin Cities.

THE REFORMED CHURCH.

The Emden Christian Reformed Church of Renville was organized in 1890, by Rev. H. Putgeter. The first pastor serving this congregation was Rev. G. H. Gulger. The first services was held October 8, 1890, in the schoolhouse in District 52. Services were conducted in German as well as the Holland language. In the year of 1892 a new church was erected at its present location about seven miles northwest from Renville, in section 12 of Erickson township, and in 1914 the people remodeled and enlarged the church to make it modern and convenient in every way. This alteration cost in the neighborhood of \$3,000. Some of the original organizers were John W. Bakker, Dirk Eckhoff, Rasmus Hendricks, W. J. Bakker, Jacob Jacobs, and others. The parsonage was built in the fall of 1892, which has since been improved so as to make a very comfortable home in every way. The first pastor was Rev. G. H. Gulkger, succeeding him was Rev. Puttgeter, Rev. H. C. Bode, Rev. G. L. Hufker, Rev. H. J. Beld, Rev. F. Scherman.

The present elders and officers are H. P. Roelfs, Isaac Goris, Lubert Ahrenholz, Henry Negen, John Ryks, Fred Ahrenholz.

The church now enjoys a large and gen-

erous congregation, having a total membership of about 85 members, among them are the most prominent and prosperous farmers of Erieson and Crooks townships. —Written by L. Ahrenholz.

EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Evangelical Association of Flora Township. (By Rev. John D. Moede.) In 1860 a number of families of the Evangelical association located in the township of Flora. They immediately organized a number of classes and held prayer meetings, Sunday school and other religious meetings. In those early days the old pioneer preacher served a large circuit and very often it was impossible for him to preach oftener at a place than once in every four or six weeks. During the pastor's absence the various classes continued their work and often when he came for the next service he would learn that a number of converts had been added to the fold. In 1862 the ministers, Christian L. Seder and E. H. Bauman of New Ulm, regularly visited this community. The work was in a flourishing condition at the time of the Indian outbreak, August 18, 1862. On August 17, 1862, there were about one hundred adults and thirty children gathered at the home of John Lettau for divine worship. Gottlieb Mannweiler was the Sunday school superintendent at the time, and was a very devout and earnest leader. Rev. Seder preached on that day. None realized that this would be the last service that some of them ever would attend on this earth.

Before another Sunday, nearly one hundred were dead and their mangled bodies scattered over the prairies as the result of the Indians' revenge, and of the other thirty many were prisoners of the savage Sioux while a few after horrible sufferings had escaped. Rev. Balsar Simon, pastor of the Evangelical church of Flora, in 1882-84 made a very thorough investigation of the names of the victims of the massacre, and placed on the records of the congregation the names of the members who were murdered: Rev. Christian L. Seder (Rev. August Nierens, another minister of the denomination was murdered by the Indians near New Ulm, September 2, 1862); W. Inerfield; John Sieg, wife and four children; Michael Zitzloff, and wife; John Zitzloff; Caroline Meier and three children; Ernest Hauff, wife and four children; Uris Andermack; Mrs. Louis Thiele and one child; John Lettau and one child; Gottlieb Mannweiler; William Schmidt, wife and two children, (little Minnie died at Fort Ridgely from the effects of exposure); Father and Mother Boelter; Mrs. Michael Boelter and three children; John Boelter (Mrs. John Boelter and two children escaped into the woods; after weeks of indescribable suffering the baby died, and the mother and the other child were found by the soldiers when starvation seemed to

the inevitable fate); Enselius Rief, wife and one child; Friedrich Busse, wife and three children; John Roesler, wife and two children; Rosina Heining and three children; Friedrich Roesler; John Kochendorfer and one child; Paul Kitzman, wife and several children; Friedrich Krueger and two children; Gottlieb Zabel; and Emil Grundman, wife and three children.

Many escaped to Fort Ridgely and many were taken captive by the Indians and later released, at Camp Release by General Sibley. Louis Thiele was the only old settler who returned to establish a home on his old homestead.

About the close of the Civil war a number of Evangelical families again moved into this neighborhood. The first families are the following: Francis Shoemaker, August Lindeman, Henry Dreyer and Henry Timms. Evangelical ministers for several years made occasional visits to this community. In 1868 regular preaching services were instituted and have been conducted until the present time. In 1871 Rev. August Schmidt was sent to this community as the first resident pastor of the Evangelical association. November 25, 1877, the members of the Zion's church of Evangelical association organized with Fredrick Emde as president, and Henry Timmes as secretary. Julius Runger was elected trustee for a term of one year, Henry Timmes for two years and Henry Smith for three years. Through the efforts of Rev. Schmidt the first church was built in 1879. The old pioneer preachers visited a number of other points and organized congregations, some of which are now large and flourishing.

In 1911 Rev. J. S. Krienke was influential in having a new church built which cost \$8,000 and which was dedicated in June, 1912, Bishop W. Horn, D. D., of Cleveland, Ohio, had charge of the dedicatory services. In May, 1912, Rev. S. W. Hielscher assumed charge of the congregation and before the year was out the church was free from debt. The following pastors have served this charge: Rev. Chr. Brill, May, 1861-May, 1862; Rev. C. L. Seder and E. H. Bauman, 1862-until the time of the massacre; Rev. J. G. Simon served this field for several months during 1866; John Schmidt made one visit to that place during the year 1866; during 1867 the field was not supplied with a pastor; Rev. E. J. Hielscher, 1868-1869; Rev. E. J. Hielscher and Rev. J. Manthey, 1869-1870; J. G. Drehmel and August Schmidt, 1870-1871; Rev. August Schmidt, 1871-1873; Rev. Friedrich Moede, 1873-74; Rev. D. W. Sydon, 1874-75; Rev. Ludwig Passer, 1875-76; Rev. Ludwig Passer and Rev. E. Murius, 1876-77; Rev. F. Emde, 1877-79; Rev. John H. Schmidt, 1879-82; Rev. Balsar Simon, 1882-85; Rev. Martin Gagstetter, 1885-88; Rev. H. Hensel, 1888-91; Rev. A. G. Sahr, 1891-94; Rev. Otto Schultz, 1894-96; Rev. J. Kienholz, 1896-98; Rev. August

Reeck, 1898-1902; Rev. E. H. Bollenbach, 1902-05; Rev. C. F. Sydon, 1905-10; Rev. G. J. Krienke, 1910-12; Rev. Geo. W. Hiel-scher, 1912-14; John D. Moede, 1914.

This congregation has exerted a whole-some influence in the days gone by and has been a blessing to many individuals. The Minnesota Conference will hold its next session, May, 1916, in the new church and is assured of royal entertainment by the members of the congregation and their friends in the community.

Rev. Christian Louis Seder was born in 1830 in Koeingreich, Hanover, Germany; his parents were sturdy Germans. When he was sixteen years of age the family came to this country, locating at Lewiston, Wis., on a farm. In 1856 Rev. Seder was licensed to preach and served two years as a local pastor. In 1857 he was united in marriage to Ursula Saxer. Three children—two sons and a daughter—were born to them. Both sons are now in the service of the church. In the spring of 1860 Rev. Seder was stationed at Preston Mission in this state. His circuit was very extensive—north as far as Rochester, Chatfield, Dover, south-east to the state line, Cresco and Decorah, Iowa. All of these points were reached on horseback, that being the only means of conveyance which could be obtained at the time. He carried his library with him, so to speak, as his means were limited and his salary very meager. However he was a powerful preacher and many thank him for being the means of leading them to a better life. In the spring of 1862 he was stationed at New Ulm, which was also a large circuit, and compelled him to be away from home a great deal of the time. On Aug. 17, 1862, he preached near Beaver Creek in Renville county, where he had a regular appointment. On Monday morning, August 18, came the alarm of the Indian Outbreak. All the people in the vicinity got together to flee to a place of safety. Rev. Seder was chosen leader and headed the procession. They were overtaken by the Indians and many of them were shot and killed. Rev. Seder was one of the first ones killed. Eye witnesses said that he was shot and an Indian then sprang into his buggy, split his head open with a tomahawk and then threw his body out of the buggy, keeping the horse and buggy as a prize. John Boelter was among those killed. His wife and two children, however, succeeded in escaping thru the brush and concealed themselves in a cave, where they lived for several days on herbs and berries before help came. It is from Mrs. Boelter that particulars of this massacre have been obtained. She is still alive, residing now at Kenyon, Minn.—By Rev. H. A. Seder.

Rev. August Nierens was a pastor in the same denomination as Rev. Seder who worked on a circuit near New Ulm. When the uprising came he offered himself as a

volunteer to help defend the town and showed much bravery in the defense of the town. On Tuesday, Sept. 2, hearing the cries of a child outside of the stockade, he bravely stepped out to rescue it, but was shot down as he stepped out of the door.—By Rev. H. A. Seder.

ROMAN CATHOLIC.

Catholic services in the Minnesota valley were held at an early date. On June 23, 1839, Bishop Mathias Loras, Bishop of Dubuque, left that city in a steamboat for the mouth of the Minnesota river, accompanied by Abbe Joseph Pellamourgues and a young man who acted as interpreter. The bishop wrote: "Our arrival was a source of great joy to the Catholics, who had never before seen a priest or bishop in these remote regions; they manifested a great desire to assist at divine worship and to approach the sacrament of the church. The wife of our host, who had already received some religious instruction, was baptized and confirmed; she subsequently received the sacrament of matrimony and made her first communion. The Catholics of St. Peter amounted to 185. Fifty-six were baptized, administered communion to thirty, these adults, and four received the nuptial benediction."

Bishop Loras was near Fort Ridgely at the time of a battle between the Sioux and the Chippewas, and he gives the following description: "On Thursday, the sixty-third anniversary of the independence of the United States, my adopted country, while holding services, a wild music suddenly burst upon our ears. A moment after I perceived through the windows a band of savages, all covered with blood, executing a barbarous dance and singing one of their death songs. At the top of two poles were fifty bloody scalps, to which a part of the skulls were attached, the terrible trophies of the prowess of the hard fight of the preceding days. You may well imagine what an impression such a sight made upon my mind. I finished the services as well as I could."

Some time in the forties, Catholic priests held missions at the home of the La Croix family at the mouth of Birch Cooley creek, and also near Patterson's Rapids, in Flora township, not far from the Sacred Heart creek.

There are eight Catholic churches in Renville county, as follows: the Church of St. Mary at Bird Island, served by Rev. A. Scholzen; the Church of St. John at Hector, served from Bird Island; the Church of St. Andrew at Fairfax, served by Rev. Jn. Goergen; the Church of St. John at Morton, served by Rev. W. L. Hart; Church of St. Patrick, of Birch Cooley, served by Rev. Hart; the Church of St. Mary, of Bechyn, served by Rev. Jos. Tomek, Redwood Falls; the Church of St. Aloysius at Olivia, served by Rev. Henry D. Pomije; the Church of Holy Redeemer

of Renville, served by Rev. Wm. Cashman.

The parish of Henryville is now discontinued and its members have been amalgamated with other parishes. There are several Catholic families at Buffalo Lake and services are held there in a private building and the work there is conducted as a mission of Bird Island. It was formerly a mission of Hector. There are also a number of Catholic families at Sacred Heart and services have long been held at the residence of Ed. O'Connor.

The Church of St. Aloysius, Olivia. (By Rev. Henry D. Pomije.) As there are many Scandinavians in Renville county, and as it is held by some scholars that their forefathers were the first known Catholics upon the soil of Minnesota, it may be of special interest to make reference to the earliest traces of Catholicity in these parts of the State.

If the records are genuine, we have an inscription of what is known as the Kensington Rune Stone. The *Acta Et Dicta*, Vol. IV, No. 1, p. 36, published by The Catholic Historical Society of St. Paul, gives the following account of the Stone: "In August, 1898, a Swedish farmer, by the name of Olaf Ohman, was clearing a tract of land, situated about three miles in a northerly direction from Kensington, Douglas county, Minnesota, when he discovered under a tree a large stone bearing an inscription in runic characters, which interpreted reads as follows: '8 Goths (Swedes) and 22 Norwegians on an exploring journey from Vinland very far west. We had a camp by 2 skerries (rocks in the water) one day's journey north from this stone. We were out fishing one day. When we returned home, we found 10 men red with blood and dead. A V M (Ave Maria, or Ave Virgo Maria, Hail Mary). Save us from evil. We have 10 men by the sea to look after our vessels, 14 (41 ?) days journey from this Island. Yeaf 1362.'

The strange inscription tells us then of a visit made by a number of Norsemen in 1362 to a locality in the central western part of what is now Minnesota. The thing is not at all impossible nor unlikely. It is an historic fact that the Norsemen in those ages came on frequent journeys to the eastern coast of North America, part of which they named Vineland or land of wine; and hence some of them might have ventured further inland on a journey of exploration. The runic characters and the language of the inscription are such as they were in use among the Scandinavian peoples in the Middle Ages. Above all, the invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary points to the authenticity of the record, because in those days the nations of the Scandinavian north still possessed the Catholic faith (brought to them in about 830, by the Frankish Priest, St. Ansgar, at the invitation of the Danish chief Harold, himself then a Catholic), and were familiar with the veneration of the saints,

its usage and meaning. It is hardly conceivable that a forger of our days would even think of such an invocation, since the Scandinavians have been Protestants from the sixteenth century. Much therefore is in favor of the authenticity of the inscription upon the Kensington Rune Stone found in our part of the State, indicating that Catholics were here as early as 1362.

However, as far as the history of the Catholic Church in Olivia is concerned, the earliest traces we can now find are the sources of its adherents, and these, naturally, were the adjoining Catholic settlements. Such settlements, not to mention Bird Island, were Fort Ridgely, with its quota of Catholics already in the year 1857; Birch Cooley, under the ministrations of Father Somereisen, 1868; Bechyn, with its Church edifice erected in 1880; and the Church of St. Philip, of Henryville.

The Church of St. Philip has now gone out of memory. The records on file in the office of the Church of St. Aloysius of Olivia, show that said parish was incorporated on Oct. 6, 1882, with Thomas L. Grace, Bishop, August Ravaux, V. G., John Andre, Pastor, Michael Holden, Treasurer, and John T. Kelly, Secretary. Of the original incorporators, Michael Holden is the sole survivor. The members of this parish have now all been amalgamated with the members of adjoining parishes, the church building moved away and the cemetery with the entire church grounds placed under the charge of the Church of St. Aloysius of Olivia.

The Catholic parish of Olivia was officially organized and incorporated in 1888. It was on the seventeenth of May, 1888, that several Catholic men "of the village and vicinity" met in Olivia, "for the purpose of locating a site for a Catholic Church in said village."

They felt that their religious needs had not hitherto received adequate attention. Religion and morality, to be truly the pillars of national and individual greatness, must be systematically inculcated.

The interludes of spasmodic services neutralize if not nullify much of man's effort in matters religious.

The material prospects in Renville county were bright. The prairie fields gave tokens of willingness to exchange their coat of wild grass for a covering with rugs of golden grain. But the mere material advantages, in view of man's immortal and noble destiny, are ultimately, as a rule, the surest counteractors of themselves, the first to dissolve their own momentary charm. Thus the pioneer Catholics of Olivia were not satisfied with mere material advantages, the somewhat prevalent folly of Americans. To them past religious services were palpably deficient, they yearned for fuller measures of ministrations and the grandeur of the Catholic Ritual. And

well might the Catholic Pioneer demand more of his religion, for of no man is it the surer perquisite. Like Leban of old carrying her household gods with her wherever she went, so these pioneers carried their Catholic faith with them, with all its hopes. Silver and gold, indeed, they did not have, but they possessed something far more valuable than that—their faith. Happy, thrice happy, they who possess faith! They cannot smile without thinking that they will rejoice in the eternal smiles of heaven; they cannot weep without thinking that their sorrow will soon be over. Their tears, so frequent among our old pioneers, are not lost, religion collects them in her urn, in her chalices, and presents them to the most High, through whose benevolence many become valuable pearls of merit and are stored in the celestial treasury for future reward, the remainder blossom forth into flowers of Divine benedictions, which are strewn upon man's path in this world. The Pioneer Catholics of Olivia had the Faith, and, wishing to perpetuate it, they therefore met to consider plans for systematic services in religion.

There were Catholic services in Olivia prior to 1888, for as early as 1880, two years after the foundation of Olivia, if not earlier, Father Andrew Kober, the actual Apostle and good Samaritan of Renville county Catholics, ministered to the local Catholics.

At the meeting of May 17, 1888, Peter Abercrombie was elected chairman, and J. B. Foreman secretary. The building committee was composed of John Morgan, Jacob Kubesh, Henry Leonard, Louis Brugman, Michael Sherin and James Burns.

On the 27th of May, 1888, a new election took place "for the purpose of electing the officers for one year." The record of that meeting says that Peter Abercrombie was elected chairman, with Louis Brugman, Michael Glenn and James Riha as associates, and John Morgan as treasurer. "Peter Abercrombie acting also as secretary."

At a meeting of June 10, 1888, two more members were added to the building committee, Michael Sherin and William Heaney. On the 14th of June the bond of the treasurer, John Morgan, with M. J. Glenn and Michael Sherin as sureties, was accepted.

M. J. Glenn and John Morgan were then sent to St. Paul "to secure a deed to the property" intended for the church site, which was Block 13 Nester's Addition to the Village of Olivia, and also "to make inquiries for lumber, in diverse places, for the church building."

The work progressed well, for a few days later, on the twentieth of June, 1888, the vigil of St. Aloysius Day (hence the name, Church of St. Aloysius), the incorporation documents were signed by Rt. Rev. John Ireland, Rt. Rev. Thomas L.

Grace, V. G., Rev. Andrew Kober, John Morgan, and Michael Glenn. The records on hand give no account of the dedication of the church.

Father Andrew Kober was therefore the first pastor, and he ministered to the parish until about July 1, 1896, when Rev. T. Plent succeeded him. Under the latter's direction was built the present commodious and thoroughly modern brick presbytery in 1897. His charge terminating in February of 1904, Rev. H. P. Fey conducted services until May of the same year, when Rev. Daniel Hughes took his place. In September of the same year, Rev. Paul Barron, an Englishman, became the acting pastor, and occupying the office until November, 1906, when Rev. Paul Perigord was sent here. His pastorate terminating on the second of August, 1907, Rev. Henry D. Pomije was sent by Archbishop Ireland to assume charge of the parish of St. Aloysius, and its pastorate he holds since that time.

Mention should be made that the large bell in the high steeple of the church was donated, almost in its entire cost, by Frank Holan, an amiable old Pioneer, now deceased. The bell weighs 2,000 pounds and is rung daily, signalling to the people the time of prayer, morning, noon and eve; its magic sound controlling many hearts. It is also used in calling people to Mass, to ring wedding marches, and to toll the sad funeral farewell.

The main altar is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McGinty. The Stations of the Cross were donated by M. J. Glenn, M. Holden, G. Kelly, H. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jansen, Mr. and Mrs. John Hopman, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Heaney, Ladies' Rosary Society, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kubesh, St. Andrew Court, C. O. F., Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pitka, William Maloney, Catholic Workman, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Heaney, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Schaeffer, Mr. and Mrs. L. Brugman, Mr. and Mrs. A. Brugman, Anton Kubesh, Frank Fousek and Geo. Lipert.

Among other more notable gifts to the parish may be mentioned, the Sanctuary Lamp, donated by Albert Jansen; the Park Fountain, donated by Messrs. John Freeman, Peter Wacek, P. J. Schaeffer and Henry Heaney; the Pergola, donated by Wm. Russel and Rev. H. D. Pomije, and the School Library, donated by the last mentioned.

About half a mile west from the church is the parish cemetery, which with its mowed lawn, flowers and a central flower mound, makes, in connection with the contiguous public cemetery, one of the best appearing cemeteries in Renville county.

People of several nationalities belong to the Church of St. Aloysius. According to the alphabetical order they are: Bohemians, French, Germans, Hollanders, Irish, Poles and Scandinavians. All told, 175 families belong to the parish.

The parish property, including its park, cemetery, and all buildings and furnishings, is worth about \$75,000. The parish is without debt and in a highly flourishing condition.

The Catholic parish owns a block of ground and maintains in addition to the church a parochial school, which was recently built at a cost of \$25,000. A beautiful park situated on the grounds is the pride of the parish. Rev. H. D. Pomije is pastor.

The Aloysianum.—The Aloysianum is an eight grade and music school under the direction of the Trustees of the Church of St. Aloysius, and in charge of the Sisters of the Order of St. Joseph.

On Easter Sunday, March 27, 1910, the pastor, Rev. Henry D. Pomije, just before leaving on a tour of Europe, Northern Africa and Western Asia, announced to his parishioners the necessity of a private school where, besides all the ordinary branches of secular knowledge, also a moral and religious education could be imparted to the pupils.

Upon his return, two gentlemen, John M. Freeman and John Flaschenriem, met with him in his library room and discussed the projected institution. All agreed that such a school should be built, and it was thought prudent to take three years to do said work, so that in 1913, the year of the Silver Jubilee of the parish, the building would rise upward as a memorial of the 25th anniversary.

Immediately the following committee was appointed: Rev. Henry D. Pomije, John M. Freeman, John Flaschenriem, Thomas McGinty, James R. Landy, Frank Fousek, Albert Jansen, Charles Deyling, Joseph Rousar, Bernard Tersteeg, Henry D. Hopman, Frank Polansky, Joseph Kubesh, William Meaney and August Uhlir.

On June 21, 1911, the breaking and the blessing of the ground took place; Very Rev. L. Haas, Dean of the Glencoe Deanery, officiating, with the assistance of several clergymen. Rev. P. Quesnell of Glencoe, preached in the church, and Rev. James Klein of Minneapolis delivered an address on the school grounds.

On June 21, 1912, the Catholics of Olivia were requested by Father Pomije to bring sand and gravel for the building, and in the autumn of the same year again requested to proceed with the excavation of the ground. Both requests were responded to with high enthusiasm.

These were the remote preparations for the laying of the corner stone on June 21, 1913, the year of the Silver Jubilee referred to above. On that day, in the presence of a vast concourse of people, the corner stone was solemnly laid by the Very Rev. Humphry Moynihan, President of St. Thomas College. The said gentleman spoke in the English language, and Rev. H. D. Pomije in Bohemian.

The corner stone bears the following patriotic inscription: "June 21, 1888, For God and Country, June 21, 1913."

The complete cost of the building is \$30,000.00. It is a brick structure two stories high above the basement. The brick is the Danville cloister, with deep red mortar joints. The entire building is trimmed with cut Bedford stone, giving it a solemn expression and stately stamina.

The basement, with the exception of the large boiler room, is less than four feet beneath the ground level, so that all its windows are above ground, and thus making the rooms in the basement almost ideal. On the side of the boiler room are two lavatories, separated by a wall and reached by different stairways. In the center of the basement is located a parish kitchen, and on the west end is located a large parish hall.

The building is 94 by 47 feet. While the ends of the building are only 47 feet deep, the central part of the building is 60½ feet deep. This central projection is 60½ by 30 feet. The landings of both front and rear entrances are 10 by 12 feet. Leading into the building is a large entrance double door of paneled glass and surrounded by windows of flowing tracery. In the spacious vestibule the floors are of marble. Another double door with glass panels opens into the building proper. Here one stairway leads into the basement and the other to the main floor. All the doors in the building have large glass panels.

On the main floor is a splendid central lobby, 14 by 26 feet, where there are a few chairs, piano, ornamental statuary, pictures of the Declaration of Independence, of George Washington, of Lincoln, and of Renville county wheat fields. This lobby is a new feature in school buildings, as is also the flower house on the south side of the building, where over a thousand plants are yearly propagated. Circling around this lobby are the music rooms, reception room, two dining rooms, private chapel, two dormitories and lavatories.

On the second floor are the school rooms, each 21 feet 4 inches by 30 feet 8 inches. Eight large windows, with transoms above, admit an abundance of light into each room. Genuine, hand finished slate blackboard is in all the classrooms. Each class-room has its adjoining cloak-room, and is otherwise provided with all the requirements of a modern school-room, including electric lights, clocks, pictures, sanitary drinking fountains, etc. The library is 14 by 20 feet and contains presently over 500 volumes, all classified according to the universal Dewey Decimal System.

The building is heated by the Judge Gravity-vapor-system, and each room separately ventilated by the Judge Channel-system.

The electric system cost about \$1,000.00, and the pictures in the building over \$5,000.00. All the furniture, which is fumed oak, rugs, carpets, etc., is of the best quality. The style of the architecture of the building is a beautiful combination of the classical and modern, and the building, in appearance, is not unlike the Castles on the Rhine.

The dedication program was in charge of J. R. Landy, editor of the *Olivia Times*. Mr. Landy delivered the address of welcome in his usual happy way and introduced the various speakers. The following account of the dedication is taken from the *Olivia Times*, Sept. 10, 1914: "Sunday, Sept. 6, was made a memorable day in the history of St. Aloysius Church. . . . The dedication of the new school took place and a large crowd turned out to attend the exercises. Fully 2,000 people were in attendance, many coming from Redwood, Renville, Bird Island and other neighboring towns. The exercises began at 2:30 o'clock with a march from the parsonage to the school building. The procession was headed by cross bearers and altar boys and after them came the clergy. Next in line were the school children and following those came the members of the Catholic Workmen and Catholic Foresters, and next the members of the parish. At the front entrance to the school building the procession stopped while the choir sang a hymn, and then the clergy and attendants passed into the building, where a short ritualistic ceremony took place. After this the crowd returned to the church grounds, where an improvised stand had been erected. Seats had been placed for about 1,000 people, but these were not sufficient to accommodate more than half of the crowd present.

"The program on the grounds commenced with the singing of the National hymn, 'Hail Columbia,' by school children, then was introduced Hon. M. J. Dowling, Mayor of Olivia, who delivered a pleasing address, which brought forth hearty applause. He spoke of the great privilege of being an American citizen, calling attention to the responsibilities which American citizenship confers upon our people, and contrasting the conditions of America with those of Europe, especially at the present time. He paid a well deserved tribute to Father Pomije for what the latter has contributed to the civic growth of Olivia in the way of a beautiful park and a magnificent school building, and as a mayor of the village he thanked him and the parish for the improvements made and congratulated them on the success of their undertaking.

"Following the address by Mr. Dowling, R. T. Daly of Renville was introduced. A speech by Mr. Daly is always pleasing to an Olivia audience and this was no exception. He spoke of the good work that is being done throughout the country by

denominational schools, as well as by the public schools, and he predicted that the good influence of the parish school of St. Aloysius will extend far beyond this community. Referring to the European war he said: 'I cannot refrain from touching upon a subject that is uppermost in the minds of all the people, the great war in Europe, and it occurs to me that it must be gratifying to an all peaceful God to turn His eye from the bloodstained Europe and look down upon a happy and peaceful assemblage like this.'

"Speaking of the new school, he said that the people of the other villages of the county look to Olivia to make advancement along all lines. Being the seat of government, she draws the citizens of other towns here on business, and while she cannot expect to be as large as Renville, she can be a model city.

"Father Scholzen of Bird Island referred to the task of building such a great school. He said he was surprised at what Olivia accomplished in that respect, building a \$30,000.00 school and paying for it the same year.

"The last speaker on the program was Rev. Father Pomije, and, the occasion being to him an especially happy one, he was in the proper frame of mind to deliver an address. He expressed his pleasure that his hopes and ambition respecting the new school had been realized and congratulated the members of the parish on their generous contributions to the school. Sunday being the one hundredth anniversary of the composition of the hymn, 'The Star Spangled Banner,' by Francis Scott Key, Father Pomije took occasion to speak of the flag, and in an eloquent tribute to the Stars and Stripes, pointed out their symbolic significance.

"Following Father Pomije's address, the school children sang 'America' and the audience was dismissed with prayer by Rev. Father Cashman of Renville.

"Following the exercises at the stand, took place the formal raising of the flag on the school building, and after that visitors were taken for an automobile ride around town. . . ."

St. Aloysius Park.—St. Aloysius Park is the property of the Church of St. Aloysius and is open to the public. There are about three hundred trees encircling and dotting it. Soft maples, box-elders, elm, evergreens, birch, poplars, apple and plum trees vie with each other for superiority. There are also a large number of pyramidal-Japanese-arbor-vitae, globular dwarf pines and one South American banana tree.

From among deciduous shrubs the following have prominent places upon the lawn: *Barberis Thunbergii*, *Deutzia Gracialis*, *Currents*, *Golden Elder*, *Golden Syringa*, *Hydrangea Paniculata*, *Honeysuckle*, *Lilac* (*Syringa vulgaris*), *Lilac-syringa Japonica*, *Syringa Philadelphus Coronarius*

trimmed into a globular form, Snowball (lantana), Anthony Waterer Spirea, Spirea Van Houttei, Tamarix Africana and Weigelia Eva Rathke. The beautiful hedge, 3½ feet high by 3 feet wide, is of Lilac Vulgaris. The roses include several American varieties.

The hardy perennials scattered through the park include Achillea Ptarmica, Delphinium Chinense, Dianthus Deltoideus roseus, Lilies, Japanese and German Iris, Phlox and Peonies of several varieties, Platycodon grandiflorum and few others.

The annuals, of which there is a very great number, include various species of Cannas, Gladiolas, Dahlias, Asters, Alyssum, Elephant Ears and fancy leaved Caladiums, Celosia, Coleus, Dracaenas and Vincas.

The climbing vines include such as Clematis Jackmanii, Clematis Paniculata, Dutchman's Pipe, Beta Vine, Cardinal Climber, Hops, White and Blue Wistaria, and Ampelopsis Quinquefolia.

The park is duly supplied with garden furniture and other requisites. Special mention deserve three ornamental iron flower vases; bronze sun dial mounted on cut Bedford stone; fifty dollar Reflectoscope on Bedford stone pedestal; gargoyles; three basin iron water fountain, surmounted by a bronzed pelican, and resting in a 14 foot cement water basin; one 16 foot high five globe cluster ornamental iron lamp centrally located, and a 55 foot long, double column Pergola of fluted, lock-joint 12 foot columns with Scamozzi Ionic cap and Attic base.

The entire little park is tangled with gravel paths and driveways. All in all, according to travelers who have seen the best flower parks in this and other counties, it is as pretty a spot as any.

Rev. Henry D. Pomije, pastor of St. Aloysius Catholic church at Olivia, was born in LeSueur county, Minnesota, in 1880. He attended public school at New Prague as a boy and later completed the collegiate course at St. Thomas College, St. Paul. His theological training was received at the St. Paul Seminary, from which institution he was ordained a priest in 1906. The same year he was assigned by Archbishop Ireland to the pastorate at Olivia, where he is still located. In 1912 he took an extended trip through Europe, Asia and Africa, visiting many places of historic interest and writing for the public press a number of interesting articles descriptive of the countries visited. He has been a tireless worker for the upbuilding of his parish and largely as a result of his labor St. Aloysius parish is one of the richest and most prosperous parishes to be found in the state. In 1914 he completed a \$25,000 parochial school, which when dedicated was free from debt, and the enrollment in that school numbers at present about 200 pupils. Father Pomije's great delight, as a diversion, is in the

study of plant life, and for that purpose he has a private park and flower garden on the church grounds, which is a rare beauty spot of Olivia. Father Pomije is a prominent and active member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and Knights of Columbus.

Church of St. Mary's, Bird Island.—Although the present status of Catholicity in Bird Island stands as an exponent of what the Church always endeavors to accomplish in her zeal for religion and morality, still it must be admitted that the beginning of the church in central Renville county betokened anything but future progress or success. In the spring of 1879 a committee of two, Bernard Feeter and Daniel Clark, was sent to the Bishop in St. Louis for the purpose of obtaining the services of a priest for the then thriving settlement. As a result of their petition, Father Briety of Birch Coolie soon after visited Bird Island and said the first mass there in the public schoolhouse. Very soon after, in the same year, Rev. Father Godfrey H. Braun of Benton, now Cologne, took charge of the Bird Island mission. The following September Rev. J. B. Elshorst was appointed as the first resident pastor. He built a small residence in the west end of the town, but failed in his attempt to obtain sufficient funds for the building of a church from the poor struggling settlers. In the fall of 1881 Father Elshorst resigned. During the following year Bird Island was attended as a mission by Rev. John Andre of Birch Coolie. In October, 1882, Rev. Nicholas Schmitz was appointed pastor. He was, however, not only to look after the needs of the Bird Island parish, but also minister unto all the Catholics living along the C., M. & St. P. R. R. from Glencoe on the east to Ortonville on the west. Father Schmitz remained until the end of November, 1883, when he was succeeded by the Rev. Andrew Kober, during whose incumbency the parish became firmly established. Father Kober was a man of sterling character, untiring zeal and almost heroic self-denial. The welfare of the parish at Bird Island and those of the surrounding towns did not establish the limits of his priestly labors. His ambition to do good took him westward as far as the Dakotas and this was done not without much peril and hardship, especially during the winters of the early days, when traveling was anything but a pleasure and often extremely hazardous. It is related of him that on one of his mission trips near the Dakota boundary he failed to secure a conveyance and undertook to walk to the mission, some 12 or 13 miles distant. Having gone a considerable distance he was overtaken by a severe blizzard and lost his way. After tramping along until evening he was about to give up hope of being rescued when, to his great relief, he came upon a sod hut, where he was hospitably cared

for for several days, until travel again became possible.

During Father Kober's rectorship a frame church was built, and also a commodious residence, which served as rectory until the schoolsisters of St. Joseph arrived in September, 1898, when it was given over to them for convent and schoolhouse. A substantial two-story brick schoolhouse was erected a year later. This building measured 32 by 50 feet and contained four large classrooms. About this time, too, the present rectory was built. During the 19 years of Father Kober's sojourn Bird Island grew into a flourishing parish, so much so that in later years he devoted his entire time to the furthering of its welfare.

Father Kober resigned on October 31, 1902, and was succeeded by the Rev. H. P. Fey, who attended the parish until August 1, 1910. Father Fey enlarged the church considerably to meet the growing wants of the parish, installed new furniture and made a number of other minor improvements.

The present pastor, Rev. Anthony Scholzen, has worked hard to make the parish a center of attraction to the growing population. Among the many improvements made by him the most important is the large new parochial school erected in 1913. The new school, a two-story brick building with full basement, is modern in every respect, and by far the finest building in the village. It was erected at a cost of about \$30,000.00 and contains six classrooms 27 by 30 feet, each of which is provided with an ample cloakroom, an assemblyroom 30 by 65 feet, a library, a well equipped kitchen and a spacious dining-room for parish dinners and entertainments. A highschool course was added in September, 1915. About 190 pupils are in attendance. The school is very ably managed by the Sisters of St. Joseph, with the Ven. Mother Clare, the first Superioress, still in charge. Religious instruction is given under the direction of the pastor and the assistant pastor, the Rev. Henry Minea, who was appointed to Bird Island in June, 1915.

The following are some of the first Catholic settlers in the parish of Bird Island: John Wadenspanner, Bernard Feeter, Christopher Boehme, Daniel Clark, Alois Keindel, Hubert Neumann, Mathias Kirchen, William Richter, Aloysius Ziller, Joseph Hufnagel, William Hannegrefs, Frank Ederer, Roderic O'Dowd, Anthony Sanger, Frank Poseley, William Keltgen, John Nilles, August Fernkes, Charles Glesener, Bernard Marx, Nicholas Kennedy, John Glynn, Patrick Cully, John Fewer, Thomas Commiskey, Frank Bennett, Patrick Gillen, Anthony Dorweiler, John Baier and others.

Sacred Heart Parish.—The first mass ever held in Sacred Heart was celebrated in November, 1881, at the home of Ed. O'Connor, the only Catholic family within

eight miles, by Rev. A. Kobler of Bird Island, Minn. During the next five years mass was said at this home about once in every three months. Then a church was built at Granite Falls. About five years later a church was built at Renville, Mass is now occasionally said at the O'Connor home by Rev. Father John Ryan and Father Cashman of Renville. July 4, 1915, open door mass was celebrated on Mr. O'Connor's "Spring Farm," where the Knights of Columbus were gathered on that day. There is no church in Sacred Heart, but there are a number of Catholic families in and about the country.

Church of the Holy Redeemer, Renville.—(By Rev. William Cashman). When the lands adjacent to the present city of Renville were thrown open for settlement, Catholics were early attracted thither. In 1869 the first settlers came. There was no priest nearer than New Ulm, and hither Father Birkholz came occasionally to hold services. After Birch Cooley was settled the clergy from that parish attended here about once a month. But it was not until 1893 that the present church was erected. Rev. A. Kober, then pastor of Bird Island, was the organizer of the parish. He attended regularly until his death in 1900. The Rev. F. J. T. McEwan took charge then for a few years and built the Rectory; and Rev. John Kennedy became the first resident pastor. Father Kennedy died in the year 1907, and was succeeded by the Rev. T. O'Brien. Rev. John Fahey was pastor from 1910 to 1912, and was followed by the Rev. M. Staunton, who had charge for a short time. The present pastor, Rev. William Cashman, was appointed in 1913.

The parish of the Holy Redeemer now has a membership of about three hundred souls of mixed nationality. This number is growing steadily. At the present rate of increase a larger church will be needed in a short time. Every facility is granted in the way of religious services. Prospective settlers from the congested states of the east, desirous of better opportunities for themselves and their children, will find here an excellent climate, a good soil, good schools, and every church convenience.

Church of St. Andrew, Fairfax.—In every part of the world, the Roman Catholic Church has ever been at the forefront of civilization and the good the church has accomplished for humanity in the past has been far-reaching and beneficial and the benefit that it will confer on generations yet unborn cannot be measured by the human imagination.

What has been true in other parts of the world has also been true in the Minnesota valley and other portions of the North Star state, where Catholicism blazed the trail for the onward march of civilization. Churches with their cross-crowned spires pointing out the highways of mod-

ern enlightenment to the children of men, have taken the place of the temple lodge of the barbaric Sioux, where their grotesque, skin-clad medicine men practiced their hideous, heathenish rites upon the credulous savages.

The first Catholic services in this vicinity were held at Fort Ridgley in 1864, Rev. Father Berghold of New Ulm being the pastor in charge. In 1871 the place of worship was transferred to the O'Neil school house, Camp township, where Rev. Father Brennan of Birch Cooley conducted services for three years.

Rev. Father Briody also located at Birch Cooley, conducted services at the homes of John Welsh, Cairo, and Martin Welsh, Wellington, at irregular intervals during this period.

St. Andrew's parish became a distinctly local institution in 1875, at which time the Grange Hall was purchased and removed from Fort Ridgley to Fairfax, and located on the plat of ground just north of the village, now used as the cemetery. The site at this time was owned by the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company, and ox teams were used to move this structure across the country. Services were held in this building for a period of several years and were in charge of the Rev. Father Fagen, resident priest at Birch Cooley.

It was during the pastorate of the Rev. John Andre, of Birch Cooley, that the first church proper was erected in 1883. The hall formerly used for a church finally found a resting place on the O'Neil farm in Camp township. At the time the church was erected it was the largest structure used for religious purposes in this part of the country and was thought to be large enough for the needs of the congregation for all time, yet in a quarter of a century it was forced to give way for a larger and more modern place of worship. Rev. Father Andre is at present pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Minneapolis.

The Church of St. Andrew was incorporated by Archbishop John Ireland, Vicar General Augustin Ravoux, Rev. Father Andre, with M. D. Brown, secretary, and Walter Caven, treasurer. Rev. Father E. C. Smith was the first resident priest. He had charge of the parish from 1883 to 1886.

The tract now used for church purposes is the gift of John Welsh, the father of Fairfax, and is one of the most desirable in the entire village, comprising an entire block in the center of the village.

The first parsonage was formerly used for hotel purposes and stood where the Windsor hotel now stands, but was removed to the church lots, just east of the church. Later on it was again moved and now stands just east of the residence of Philip Kipp and is owned by Herman Hindermann.

Rev. Peter Rosen assumed charge of St. Andrew's Church in November, 1890. Dur-

ing his pastorate the present handsome and commodious priest's residence was erected at a cost of \$6,000, and the church was enlarged and the grounds improved.

Father Rosen also established the St. Andrew's parochial school in 1893, the same being conducted in the church building. Rev. Rosen concluded his pastorate in Fairfax in November, 1893. Rev. Father Ellshorst succeeded Father Rosen, but ill health compelled him to give up the work in 1895; during his pastorate he was assisted a goodly portion of his time by Rev. John Rohlinger.

Rev. F. X. Bajec, the next spiritual advisor of the congregation, began his labors in 1895. In 1898 he erected St. Andrew's Hall, and installed therein a library. This building was used for public purposes for a number of years until the present village hall was erected.

At the close of 1902, Rev. Bajec was called to the pastorate of the large St. Francis' Church, St. Paul, where he is now located.

The Rev. John J. Georgen, present parish priest, assumed his duties in January, 1903. The history of his labors has been one of progress and upbuilding. The first tangible results of the business capacity of Father Georgen was the establishment of a convent of the Sisters of St. Benedict, in 1905, following the completion of the handsome and thoroughly modern Sisters' Home erected at a cost of \$6,000.00. This convent is known as St. Cecelia's convent and is presided over by a Sister Superior and five assistants. Sister Catherine is the Sister Superior in charge and she is also the presiding genius of the very successful St. Andrew's school, which is now comfortably housed in the hall building which has been remodeled for school purposes.

Soon after Father Georgen's arrival he realized the need of a larger and more convenient place of worship, but he bided his time until the financial affairs of the parish and congregation were in suitable shape to erect a structure of the kind he had in mind.

Three years ago he had Architect E. J. Donahue of St. Paul prepare plans for the structure he had in mind and the latter part of that year, with the building committee as an advisory board, he commenced the erection of the new church. The building was completed in 1910, at a cost of approximately \$40,000, and was dedicated with imposing ceremonies on June 23, 1910.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Fairfax.—(By Rev. J. A. Rinkel.) The history of the Methodist Episcopal church in Renville county began with the arrival of George Rieke and his brother Victor in the early spring of 1859. These two men were members of the German Methodist

Church in Portsmouth, Ohio, where they lived previous to their coming to Renville county. They took up claims according to the pre-emption laws of that time near Rush Lake, now called Mud Lake. Another party, John Buehro, or as it is sometimes written, Buehrer, had settled near this lake shortly before the Riekes came. Together these constituted the first settlers in this part of the county.

The village of New Ulm, some eighteen miles distant, was the nearest trading point for these people. It was while the Riekes were trading in New Ulm that they became acquainted with the Rev. Henry Singenstrue, who was the first Methodist minister to visit New Ulm, and the earliest minister in this entire section. Immediately, upon learning that the Riekes were members of the Methodist Church, Rev. Singenstrue sought out their place of habitation. While the number of people was too small for him to hold regular preaching services, he, nevertheless, called on them several times each month and conducted a Bible study with them and the Buehros.

In May, 1860, the parents and other members of the Rieke family settled in this same community. With their arrival Rev. Singenstrue commenced regular preaching services. The first meeting was held in May, 1860, in a sod ox-stable which George Rieke had erected the summer before and which was used to house the elder Rieke family. Those present at this service were: Frederick Rieke, Sr., and his wife Gertrude, nee Burke, George Rieke, Victor Rieke, Adam Rieke, Henry Rieke, August Rieke, Mary Rieke (later Mrs. Charles Fenske), Lizzetta Rieke (later Mrs. Antouei), Herman Rieke, Fredrick Rieke, Jr., and wife Wilhelmine, nee Lammers, Wilhelm Lammers, Frederic Lammers (later Mrs. Fredrieb Strate), Fredrick Lammers, John Buehro and wife Agatha, nee Depolder.

All except John Buehro and wife had their membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, Ohio, and were soon transferred to the New Ulm congregation of the same church. Mr. and Mrs. John Buehro joined on probation at this time.

Until 1878 this congregation was served by ministers from New Ulm. They were: Henry Singenstrue, 1858 to 1860; Henry Snitker, 1860 to 1862; John Haas, 1862 to 1863; Charles Thalenhorst, 1863 to 1864; Henry Singenstrue served a second time from 1864 to 1867; John G. Bauer, 1867 to 1870; Gottlieb Dosdall served as assistant pastor to Rev. J. G. Bauer, 1869 to 1870; F. Unland, 1870 to 1873; J. M. Nippold, 1873 to 1876; August Biebighaeuser, 1876 to 1878.

In the fall of 1878 the congregation was placed under the supervision of the pastor of the Sleepy Eye congregation and was served from here until 1888. The

ministers during these ten years were: F. Wellemeier, 1878 to 1879; H. E. Young, 1879 to 1880; A. H. Koerner, 1880 to 1881; G. Raible, 1881 to 1883; F. J. Preine, 1883 to 1885; W. F. Fritze, 1885 to 1888.

In 1887 the first church edifice was erected by Rev. W. F. Fritze on a plot of ground presented by George Rieke. A cemetery was planted near the church, which is intact today. Many of the pioneers are buried there.

Until this time all the preaching was done in the German language. But in the fall of 1887 Rev. W. W. Brown, an English Methodist minister, came over from Lone Tree, in Brown county, and preached in the Mount Hope school house about four miles south of Fairfax. The village of Fairfax had not been visited by a minister of the Gospel up to this time. Sunday was used as a gala-day. Horse races and other sports were the order of the day. Rev. Brown had the desire to bring them the Gospel. He visited that place in company with C. H. Hopkins, personally invited the people to come to the meeting, and held the first service in the village school house in the fall of 1887. So well were these services attended that Rev. Brown was pleased to return to them and preach every two weeks.

Many interesting stories have come down from that early date portraying to us the experiences of the pioneer ministers. C. H. Hopkins generally used his team in transporting Rev. Brown from place to place. It happened one evening, that, while they were returning from Fairfax to the Hopkins farm, the sleigh in which they were riding skidded off the road and upset. The reverend gentleman was a fat person and rolled over and over when he was thrown out into the snow. Mr. Hopkins jestingly remarked, "That is what I call spreading the Gospel." Rev. Brown, being an Englishman, did not catch the joke at once and seemed quite shocked at such sacrilege. He took it gracefully, however, and, after righting their sleigh again, continued the journey.

On another occasion, Rev. Brown was making calls with Mr. Hopkins. They stopped at the home of Hon. Edmond O'Hara, a little ways east of Fairfax. While these two gentlemen, in company with Mr. O'Hara, were out viewing his farm and stock, a storm came up. As was often the case in those days, it did not take long for the wind to rise to a great velocity. Mr. O'Hara and Mr. Hopkins took refuge in the house. Rev. Brown, however, did not want to trust the little shanty in such a storm and took refuge behind a haystack. While the two gentlemen in the house were watching the storm through the window, they saw the wind upset the haystack upon the preacher, entirely burying him. Both men rushed to his assistance, and, after they had pitched hay as fast as they could for

some minutes, rescued the minister in the nick of time.

Other stories come from Rev. J. G. Bauer, who preached in the Rieke settlement from 1867 to 1870. He writes as follows:

"From the Eight Mile Creek I often traveled to the Rieke settlement. Here I found the father of the Riekes and spent many a night with them. Mother Rieke was a very pious woman. Often they would fill my buggy with necessities of life. When I left this field of labor it caused me much pain to separate from these good people.

"From the Rieke settlement I went west to Birch Cooley. Here I found a number of families living near the old battle ground of the 1862 outbreak. There were still many heaps of horses' bones to designate the place of the battle. Mr. Buerry often related the story to me of how they had been warned by a friendly Indian to flee for their lives. He immediately hitched up his horses, while his wife gathered some bedding, some eatables and the Bible into the wagon, and they fled to Fort Ridgely, where they were safe. But he said many of his neighbors did not heed the warning and were massacred.

"One day while I was traveling over the prairies of this section, I was overtaken by a big snow storm. Blinded by the storm, I found difficulty in keeping my directions. After driving for some time I concluded that I must be near the Buerry home. Halting my horse, I proceeded on foot to find the house. Suddenly I felt heat coming into my face. Upon investigation I found that the snow had drifted over the Buerry house, which was built into the side-hill, and I was standing over the chimney. I made my way around to the door and found a welcome with these good people. The storm continued for three days and nights and I was compelled to remain here during that period. The family was large and the house was very small. The only place they had for me to sleep was in a small hole which they had dug into the hill and used for a store room. It was cold and damp in here. But I was thankful even for that. After the sun came out again I started for my home in New Ulm. I had a large strong horse, but the snow was so deep and the buggy pulled so hard that when night was approaching I found myself only about five miles from my starting point.

"My horse and myself, tired and hungry, arrived at a small one-roomed house in which two Norwegian families were living. They could not understand a word I said, nor could I understand them. But with signs and gestures I made them understand that I wanted to remain there thru the night. They, in turn, tried to make me understand that there was no room. Finally I pointed under the table and to myself and they consented to let me stay there. I scratched some straw

under the table, as there was only a dirt floor in the house, and proceeded to wrap up in my horse blankets. I soon fell asleep, but in the night I was awakened by something gnawing on my hair. Reaching for the object, I found it to be a large rat. Conquering him, I fell asleep again, only to be awakened by another such rodent. So I spent the night sleeping and fighting rats in turn.

"From Birch Cooley I later made my way westward to Beaver Falls and Big Stone Lake. The first time I crossed this country a prairie fire had burned the stakes away which the settlers had driven in as guideposts. But I found my way to several families who had moved into these parts, and I preached to them.

"The first man who joined our church in this neighborhood was Brother Kuck. Soon after, a family by the name of Steinkamp and two families by the name of Schaefer came into this community and we had a good congregation. A few years later other families of the Evangelical Association moved in and were ministered to by Rev. Hielscher of that church. I then ceased visiting this community and turned to places where no other minister came."

In the spring of 1888 Rev. W. F. Fritze, in company with C. H. Hopkins, began collecting funds for the erection of a church in Fairfax. They visited every family in the community and solicited from them. When they came to a German family Rev. Fritze would broach the subject and when they came to an American family Mr. Hopkins would do the talking. So they gathered enough to erect a small church that same year. The first trustees of this church were E. F. Sell, Gustav Sell, Charles Lammers, Henry Hauser and F. Chambard. The edifice cost \$1,400.

In this church edifice the German and English Methodists met and were ministered to by their respective pastors. Naturally such close affiliation grew into strong friendship. For many years each congregation gave way to the other for the holding of services in their own language, the other members attending also. The result was that the German people learned to worship in the English language and the English people learned the German.

During the months of January and February, 1889, Rev. W. F. Fritze and Rev. D. L. Matson conducted a very successful series of revival meetings. During this time more than fifty people were converted and united with the church. With this good beginning the church continued to grow and the feeling between the two congregations became strong for union. The following ministers served the church:

German: W. F. Fritze, 1888 to 1889; E. P. Christ, 1889 to 1892; F. E. Meierbachtol, 1892 to 1894; C. A. Borchardt, 1894 to 1898; W. H. Miller, 1898 to 1901; F. E. Meier-

baecht, 1901 to 1906; W. H. Miller, 1906 to 1907.

English: D. L. Matson, 1888 to 1889; I. N. Goodell, 1889 to 1891; J. E. Josceelyn, 1891 to 1892; J. V. Hawk, June, 1892, to October, 1892; W. M. Wigham, 1892 to 1893; G. A. Cowden, 1893 to 1894; J. J. Lutz, April, 1894, to October, 1894; W. G. Scott, 1894 to 1895; J. P. Okey, 1895 to 1896; George Ried, 1896 to 1899; S. H. Browne, 1899 to 1900; W. H. Miller, 1900 to 1901; William Woolley, 1901 to 1903; J. A. Orrock, 1903 to 1906; N. L. Hotchkiss, 1906 to 1907.

In the fall of 1907 it was agreed upon by the two congregations that they would unite their forces and be served by one minister. The Germans, being in majority, were given precedence. The English gave up their pastor and joined the German church. United, they instructed the pastor, Rev. W. H. Miller, to begin collecting funds for a new and larger church. The result was that in 1908 a beautiful brick edifice 43 by 58 feet was erected at a cost of more than \$13,000.00. On the day of dedication, in October, 1908, all the money was raised and the church was dedicated free from debt. Following the dedication exercises the Northern German Conference held its session in the church. The members entertained the ministers of the conference in their homes for lodging and breakfast and served dinner and supper in the parlors of the church. Bishop John L. Nuelsen, once a member of this conference, presided. The trustees of the new church were: G. A. Rieke, Charles Groslags, E. F. Sell, Frank Hopkins, J. A. Whitmer, Charles Lammers, Otto Reinke, Carl Bossenecker and J. A. Sell.

With the new accommodations and thru concentrated effort the congregation grew rapidly. A Sunday School has been maintained since the organization of the church in 1888. Now the school was thoroughly organized according to the latest methods and much good was done in this line in interesting people in the work of the church.

On February 22, 1914, fire broke out in the basement of the church. It was a very cold day and a strong gale was blowing from the northeast. This impaired the waterworks to such an extent that the fire could not be checked and the church was completely destroyed excepting the tower and brick walls. Having sacrificed to the extent which was necessary to erect this beautiful church only a little over five years before, it was a sad day for the congregation. But they soon rallied and determined to reconstruct the building larger and better than it was. Rev. J. A. Rinkel, the pastor, was sent out with a committee to gather funds. They worked enthusiastically and soon secured all that was necessary for the completion of the newer church. Through the courtesy of the members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, services were held in their edi-

fice while the Methodist Church was in the course of construction. It was completed about the first of January, 1915, and was dedicated on the tenth of that month. A program which was to cover a whole week was arranged for this occasion, but only the Sunday dedicatory services were held on account of the death of E. F. Sell, which occurred on the eve of dedication. He had been the chairman of the building committee and had worked hard and untiringly for the completion of the church. His death cast a great gloom over the entire congregation and community.

The present building is 43 by 76 feet; has an auditorium with a seating capacity of 300, an Epworth League room with a capacity of 100, a dining room where over 100 people can be served, and ten separate class rooms for the Sunday School, besides a kitchen and a boiler room. It is steam heated and electric lighted.

During these years that the congregations were united the services were held more and more in the English language. In the fall of 1913 a movement was started to have the congregation transferred to the English conference. At the annual conference which met the following fall a commission was appointed from both the Northern German Conference and the Minnesota Conference. This joint commission arranged terms upon which the congregation should become a part of the Minnesota Conference, and it is now under this supervision.

The pastors who have served the congregation since its union were: W. H. Miller, 1907 to 1909; Jacob Berger, 1909 to 1913; J. A. Rinkel, 1913 to the present time.

The old parsonage, originally the McBride property, was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1895. A new parsonage was erected on the old site under the leadership of Rev. C. A. Borchardt. This property is still used as a domicile for the pastor.

The present membership numbers 275. Besides this there is a Sunday School in each of the churches on the charge with a total membership of 330. The Epworth League numbers 45 young people. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society has 30 members. The King's Herald Society for the children has 15 members and has in the last three years established 15 life memberships by paying \$10.00 each to the Foreign Missionary Society. The congregation maintains a missionary in India. Besides this they are active in many lines of local work.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Olivia.—(By Rev. J. W. Heard.) The first services of the Methodist denomination held in the northern part of Renville county were at Bird Island, by a local preacher named Rev. Nathan Tainter. He held meetings in his farmhouse and continued this work during the years 1874-

1879. His successor at Bird Island was Rev. J. W. McDonald, and he is said to have been the first to hold services at Olivia, the meetings being held in the small school house. Then followed a number of ministers who lived at Bird Island, where there was a parsonage, but had Olivia on the circuit. In 1882 there appears on the board of trustees of this circuit the name of P. W. Heins, who for many years was one of Olivia's foremost citizens. Others on the original board of trustees were J. E. W. Peterson and G. G. Depew. In 1884 the circuit was Olivia, Renville and Bird Island. Up to 1886 the meetings were held in the school house, but that year a building committee was appointed at Olivia, and a gift of \$250 was obtained from the Board of Church Extension. The committee was composed of P. W. Heins, J. E. W. Peterson and B. F. Byers, who became a trustee at about that time. The church was incorporated July 8, 1887, by Thomas McCleary, presiding elder, and Frank Rich, secretary of the quarterly conference. The lot upon which the present church stands was bought and the first church dedicated Oct. 28, 1888, by Presiding Elder Rev. Thomas McCleary. At this time the congregation consisted of nineteen members. B. F. Byers was elected Sunday school superintendent and has held that position for over twenty-five years. The beautiful church now standing on this lot was built in 1903-4, during the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Spyker, the old church being worked into the new so that ample Sunday school room was given and so arranged that all could be opened into one large auditorium. The church cost \$12,000 and was dedicated in 1904 by Rev. Robert Forbes, D. D. The parsonage was erected over twenty years ago and was rebuilt in 1909, being considerably remodeled under the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Heard. During his pastorate considerable filling and grading was done on the church property. The church property now consists of an entire half block with a church valued at \$12,000 and a parsonage valued at \$3,000. The entire indebtedness was cleared off under the pastorate of Rev. Henry Nobbs. The membership of the church is 108 and the Sunday school has an enrollment of 175.

The following is a list of the pastors including those who lived at Bird Island as well as those who later served at Olivia: Rev. Nathan Tainter, 1874-79; Rev. J. W. McDonald, 1879-81; Rev. H. Erwin, 1881-82; Rev. Mr. Penlason, 1882-83; Rev. J. S. Bean, 1883-84; Rev. Mr. Wolf, 1884-85; Rev. P. J. P. Heany, 1885-86; Rev. E. M. Himes, 1886-87; Rev. W. L. Tandy, 1887-88; Rev. D. E. Wilson, 1888-90; Rev. J. C. Handy, 1890-91; Rev. S. D. Kemerer, 1891-94; Rev. Harry W. Knowles, 1894-99; Rev. G. G. Valentyne, 1899-1901; Rev. W. H. Easton, 1901-1904; Rev. J. A. Spyker, 1904-05; Rev. C. F. Sharp, 1906-07; Rev. Henry Nobbs,

1907-08; Rev. I. N. Goodell, 1908-09; Rev. J. W. Heard, 1909-15, and Rev. W. S. Emery, 1915.

Rev. J. W. Heard holds the record for the longest pastorate, namely six years.

Rev. Nahum Tainter, born in 1821, was a native of Massachusetts. He was a member of the Methodist church, and after leaving school entered the ministry. In 1856 he settled near Chatfield, Olmsted county, Minnesota, but in 1871 selected a homestead near the village of Bird Island. Rev. Tainter preached at his house in 1874, the first sermon delivered in the town.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Buffalo Lake. (By William H. Douglas.) The first religious meetings in Preston Lake township were held by the Methodists in 1860; a society was organized and services held semi-monthly. In the winter of 1904 the old Quaker church of Brookfield was purchased and moved on huge sled runners a distance of sixteen miles by twenty teams of horses to the present location on First Avenue. Rev. E. D. Face, pastor of the church at that time, was largely responsible for the successful completion of this work and was ably assisted by William H. Douglas, E. W. Rebstock and George Field. Some of the people who gave liberal donations to this work are: Mrs. Sophia Antonsen, Wm. H. Douglas, E. W. Rebstock, George Field, John Sander, F. G. Nelleremoe, H. Eiselein, F. O. Gold, L. A. Little, V. P. Goodnow, E. J. Stearns, William Reichow, John Steinkoff, C. Steinkoff, O. T. Ramsland, J. R. Landy, Fred Fischer, R. H. Adams, A. L. Richardson, Rev. E. D. Face, John Borden, Rev. Potter, Mrs. R. Donaldson, Mrs. Hubbard, Mr. M. B. Foster, Thomas Simmons, Mrs. L. L. Bottomley, Fred Macheledt, William Houck, B. J. Butler, Thomas Richards, Mrs. Jacob Beck, Richard Fischer, William Jakobitz, Emanuel Theiling. Among the leading members may be mentioned Mr. and Mrs. Gustave King, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Townsend, Mr. and Mrs. John Sander, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Macheledt, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Marquardt, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Rebstock, Mr. and Mrs. V. P. Goodnow, and Mr. and Mrs. John Borden.

The following pastors have served the congregation: Rev. E. D. Face, 1904-1907; Rev. J. S. Kettelwell, 1907-1910; Rev. Lawrence Radcliffe, 1910-1912; Rev. C. A. Blanchette, 1912-1913; Rev. Abraham Hopkins, 1913-1915; Rev. Joseph Adair, 1915 to the present time.

The following have served as Sunday school superintendents: E. W. Rebstock, Henry Eiselein, Mrs. V. P. Goodnow and W. L. Townsend. The church finances are in a flourishing condition and the membership is increasing steadily.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Brookfield. (By Mrs. B. J. Butler.) Meth-

odism was established in the early seventies on this great prairie which was then but sparsely settled. Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Pierce were among the first pioneers and many of the early meetings were held at their home. The members of the church in those days had to come a long distance. Later the meetings were held in the school house. Meetings were also held at Boone Lake, which had been settled earlier than Brookfield. Sunday school work was begun early and exerted a great influence not only in the church but also in the community. The church is located at Church Hill, seven miles northeast of Hector, and stands on a corner. The pastor, who also has charge of the Hector church, resides in Hector and preaches at Brookfield every Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, the services being held right after the close of the Sunday school session. Very little is recorded of the early history of this church. The first preacher appointed to this place by the presiding elder was Rev. John N. McDonald in 1876. He was a local preacher and also preached at Boon Lake, in the Russel schoolhouse. Other pastors of Boon Lake were Rev. G. D. Potter, who was the first local preacher there and who remained for two years, and A. A. Kennedy, who remained for three years. Later the members who lived near enough to attend united with the Brookfield church.

The meetings were at first held in the school house and the church was built under the pastorate of Rev. Thomas Billings, and dedicated September, 1901, by Presiding Elder Joseph B. Hingely. Among the official members of the church, from earliest years down to later days, may be mentioned: A. A. Gale, recording secretary; G. A. Gifford, T. J. Stevens, Wm. S. Pierce, Robert Lorre, G. D. Potter, Chas. Newcomb, H. C. Roberts, John Kunie, David Graham, Oscar Hodgdon, John Borden, Hiram Davis, Jane Carpenter, William Simmons, Neil McCall, Nelson Shafer, Charles Porter, Frank Headley, W. E. Shepard, Joseph Westover, H. B. Palms, H. D. Countryman, J. S. Moss, N. C. Potter, B. J. Butler, F. W. Baker, Thomas Simmons, Elmer Hodgdon, T. E. Richards, Gibson Richards, and Mrs. Hoagland. The following pastors have served this congregation: J. W. McDonald, Oct. 1876-Oct. 8, 1879; F. I. Fisher, Oct. 8, 1879-Sept. 1880; M. W. Atkinson, March 1881-Oct. 1883; George Geer, Sept. 29, 1881-October 1883; George Meritt, Oct. 8, 1883-Oct. 14, 1884; J. H. Snell, Oct. 14, 1884-Oct. 1887; John Morgan, Oct. 1887-Oct. 1888; J. P. Neary, Oct. 1888-Oct. 1889; S. D. Kemmerer, Oct. 13, 1889-Oct. 1891; S. T. Show, Oct. 13, 1891-Oct. 1892; G. W. Burtch, Oct. 13, 1892-Oct. 1893; C. F. Davis, Oct. 1893-Oct. 1895; H. C. Maynard, Oct. 1895-Oct. 1896; J. R. Davies, Oct. 1896-Oct. 1898; E. H. Nicholson, Oct. 1898-Oct. 1899; Thomas Billing, Oct. 1899-Oct. 1901; J. F. Pickard, Oct. 1901-Oct. 1903; L. L. Tower, Oct. 1903-Oct. 1904;

Henry Nobbs, Oct. 1904-June 1907; James Orrock, Oct. 1907-Oct. 1909; Jesse T. Dodds, Oct. 1909-Oct. 1910; J. D. Manley, Oct. 1910-Oct. 1911; L. N. Goodell, Oct. 1911-Oct. 1914; Lawrence Radcliffe, Oct. 1914 to the present time.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Renville. (By Rev. J. R. Davies.) In 1869 a Methodist "class" was formed at Three Mile Creek, then known as Renville Post Office. A Sunday school, with a library of 100 volumes donated by L. A. Brooks and H. E. Wadsworth, was organized at the same time and place. This was the beginning of Methodism in Renville county.

The Methodists held meetings in Emmet township in 1871 at private houses and in 1875 a society was organized. Later services were conducted weekly by Rev. J. Lamberson in the schoolhouse in the village of Renville. In 1884 Renville and Olivia formed a "circuit" under the presiding eldership of Rev. Thomas McCleary, and Rev. P. J. P. Neary was placed in charge as pastor. Under the direction of these men a board of trustees, consisting of B. F. Heins, S. D. Childs, F. M. Rich, S. M. McIntosh, L. A. Brooks and W. D. Spaulding, was elected Jan. 23, 1885. At once steps were taken for the erection of a house of worship, and early in December of the same year the church was dedicated free of debt by the presiding elder, Rev. McCleary. S. D. Childs was the contractor, and the building cost \$1,012.12.

In a short time the society outgrew its home and in 1901, under the leadership of Rev. F. W. Hart, a new and commodious building was erected at a cost of \$18,000. This is the present "home" of Renville Methodism.

Methodism in Renville now consists of a Sunday school numbering, all told, about 200; a young peoples' society, Epworth League, of 65 members; a ladies' aid society of 55 members, a woman's home missionary society of 21 members, a Queen Esther society of about 20 members.

During the last two years 45 have been added to the membership of the church, making a total membership at present of 198.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Hector. Methodism was first introduced into Hector in the year of 1876 by J. N. McDonald, a local preacher, this place being one point on a very large circuit. From 1876 to 1886 the place was visited nearly every week by a Methodist preacher, and the following labored in this field during that time: F. J. Fisher, M. W. Atkinson, G. R. Geer, Geo. Meritt and I. H. Snell. A church was built in 1887 under the leadership of John Morgan, and it was dedicated on July 1, 1888, the cost being \$2,000. The same church is being used today, and will have served a good purpose when it is vacated next October. From 1889 to the

present time the following pastors have served this field: J. P. Nary, S. D. Kenner, S. T. Show, O. W. Burtch, C. F. Davis, H. C. Maynard, J. R. Davies, E. H. Nicholson, Thos. Billing, J. F. Pickard, L. L. Tower, Henry Nobbs, James A. Orrock, Jesse T. Dodds, R. C. Manly, I. N. Goodell and Lawrence Radcliffe. During the past ten years the church has made great progress and the membership has steadily grown. Every organization in the church is alive and doing great work. The Sunday school is the largest branch of the church, and at present has nearly 300 members. It is an organized Sunday school using the graded system, and at present there are about ten organized classes. Geo. M. Berry was superintendent of the Sunday

school for eleven years, and for the past two years E. W. Nobbs has held this position. In order to accommodate all who attend the sessions, it is necessary to have two divisions, one meeting in the morning at nine-thirty and the other at eleven-forty-five.

In the spring of 1915 the official board decided to build a modern church, and this new structure is now (1916) in the course of construction. The new building will be modern and up-to-date in every particular, and suitable quarters will be provided for every department of the church. The cost will be \$13,000, and it will be ready for use by the middle of October, this year. (By E. W. Nobbs.)

CHAPTER XLI.

TOWNSHIP HISTORIES.

Story of the Settlement and Growth of Renville County Townships—Location—Boundaries—First Settlers—Early Tax Lists—Thrilling Incidents—Reminiscences—Stories Told by Early Pioneers.

Renville county has twenty-seven political townships. They are Wang, Ericson, Crooks, Winfield, Kingman, Osceola, Brookfield, Boon Lake, Hawk Creek, Sacred Heart, Emmet, Troy, Bird Island, Melville, Hector, Preston Lake, Flora, Henryville, Norfolk, Palmyra, Martinsburg, Beaver Falls, Birch Cooley, Bandon, Wellington, Camp and Cairo. Some like Wellington and Emmet take their names from great heroes; some like Ericson, Crooks and Henryville take their name from early settlers or prominent county officials; some like Birch Cooley, Beaver Falls, Hawk Creek, Preston Lake, Boon Lake and Bird Island take their names from geographical features; many like Hector, Wang and Cairo take their names from older localities; one, Flora, takes its name from a horse; some, like Sacred Heart and Camp, take their names from early historical incidents.

BIRCH COOLEY TOWNSHIP

Birch Cooley township is located in the southern part of Renville township on the Minnesota river, and embraces congressional township 113, range 34, and a part of township 112, range 34. It is bounded on the north by Norfolk township, on the west by Bandon and Camp townships, on the southwest along the course of the Minnesota river by Redwood county, and on the west by Beaver Falls township. The eastern boundary is not a continuous line, the range line breaking between township 112 and 113, in such a way that the western boundary of Bandon is a short distance further west than the western boundary of Camp township.

The name of the township should be Birch Coulee, that being the correct rendering of the name. Coulee is a French word meaning the bed of the stream, even if dry, when deep, and having inclined sides. The original name of the stream in the Coulee was La Croix creek, but the vicinity was known from the early days as Birch coulee, and this was finally corrupted to Birch Cooley, now the official name of the township. In order to avoid confusion, the name in this history is spelled Cooley, though there are many places, especially in the Battle of Birch Cooley, where it should more properly be spelled Birch Coulee.

The story of the early settlement of the La Croix family, the first permanent settlement in the county, the gradual coming of other families to this locality, and the terrible devastation of the Indian outbreak has already been told. After the Massacre there were no settlers in Birch Cooley township for several years. Scouts passed through here, a few trappers ventured into the region. Some cabins which the Indians had not destroyed were burned by these trappers, and it has even been said that the trappers did everything possible to keep the fear of the Indians alive in order that settlers would not come in and cultivate the land and thus diminish the supply of fur-bearing animals.

The town began to be settled late in 1865 and early in 1866. The exact chronology of the arrivals is not at this time known. John Buerry, who had been here before the Massacre, came back, and with him was John Vogtmann. John Kumro, who had been here before the Massacre,

came back. The La Croix family and their relatives, including David Coursoll, returned to their former location. D. D. Frasier and his son-in-law, William Post, settled not far from the Minnesota river. Thomas F. Miller settled on the prairie on the west side of Birch Cooley creek and northwest of D. D. Frasier. Holger Jacobus settled in the eastern part of the township. Peter Lahti also came into the southeastern part of the township, built a warehouse and established quite a Finnish settlement.

Before the fall of 1866 quite a few settlers had come in. Among them may be mentioned:

Alexander McConnell settled in the north half of section 33. This land had been taken before the Massacre by his brothers, Joseph and David. Joseph Preston, a bachelor and an old soldier, settled in section 28, and erected a log cabin. George Bowers settled first in the center of section 32. He later found that he was on the Kumro claim, and moved to another location on the creek. Patrick Ryan settled on the northeast quarter of section 28. Patrick Foley settled on the northeast quarter of section 22. Mathias Bogema, after spending the winter of 1865-66 in Camp township, settled in section 1, Birch Cooley township. Thomas Hill settled in the north half of the north half of section 29. James Keyes settled on the southeast quarter of section 15. Henry Witcher lived for a while on the northeast quarter of section 22, where Patrick Foley afterward lived. Later Witcher moved to the west half of the southeast quarter of section 18. Robert W. Davis settled on the southwest quarter of section 15. John R. Wimer first settled on the southeast quarter of section 15, and lived there for a short time before Keyes moved thereon. John and William Tracy each secured claims. John Tracy was on the northwest quarter of section 28. William Tracy settled in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 34.

In the fall came Willard Drury, two adult sons, Wesley and John; and Owen T. Tubbs, and John Edgett. All the people previously mentioned were here when this group arrived. Wesley Drury settled on the northwest quarter of section 12. John Drury settled on the southwest quarter of section 11. Willard Drury settled on the southeast quarter of the same section. Darwin S. Hall, later so prominent a man, came through here in 1866 and secured land, but did not locate in the county at that time.

The town was gradually settled up. Among the early settlers whose names are still remembered are: James and Thomas Leary, John Delaney, John Delany, uncle and nephew, John and Wesley Drury, Robert Baker, John Killmer, Jerry P. Paten, Samuel Sands, Patrick Foley, Charles Eldridge, Clemens Tretbar, Ed. Welnitz, R. M. Simmons, George McCulloch, Henry

Homeier, Albert and John Dagen, William Brennan, E. Ward Hall, Charles S. Hall, James Head, Frederick Blume and John Landy.

In addition to these, W. C. Keefe gives the names of the following who were living in the township when he arrived with his parents in 1868: Magnus Johnson, section 2 (fractional township); Dr. T. H. Sherwin (fractional township); Wolfgang Wise, section 20; Terrance Brazil, 21; R. T. Richardson, 22; W. H. Jewell, 23; Clark Greenfield, 23; Michael Reagan, 24; John Desmond, 24; and Daniel Traey.

The first real estate assessment of Birch Cooley township (112-34 and 113-34) was made in 1868. Those assessed that year were (112-34): John Anderson, section 13; Joseph Coursall, 11; Nelson C. Frazier, 4; Jane Faribault, 24; Henry Graff, 13; Robert McPhea, 4; Mary S. Robertson, 6; Louisa Roy, 3, 10; Joseph Roy, 11; Sam H. Sands, 4; Randall Simmons, 5; Lucy Medewakan-tonwan, 6; Isabella Young, 5; Vascal Young, 5, 8.

(113-34): George Bowers, 20, 29; Michael Brazil, 29; Joseph Coursall, 2; Samuel H. Canfield, 15; John Doran, 2, 11; Patrick Foley, 22, 33; Nelson C. Frazier, 33; Wm. Fox, 33; D. S. Hall, 27; W. H. Jewell and S. H. Canfield, 33; Louis LaCroix, 32; D. McGowan, 28; Joseph McConnell, 33; Thomas O'Connor, 33; Michael Reagan, 33; Sam H. Sands, 33; Wm. Tracy, 34; John Tracy, 34; Philip Vogtman, 30; John Zimmerman, 31, 32; Patrick Ryan, 33.

The first personal property assessment of Birch Cooley township (112-34 and 113-34) was made in 1869. Those assessed were: Halleck Anderson, George Buerry, George Bowers, M. Brick, James Brown, A. Bruce, R. H. Baker, Terrence Brazil, Sr., Perry Birch, Christian Bloom, Fred Bloom, Thomas Brady, David Culver, R. C. Cooper, S. D. Child, S. H. Canfield, Daniel Cunningham, Wesley Drury, John Delany, K. Donaldson, William Drury, Joseph Dean, J. R. Deming, John Desmond, Michael Duly, Patrick Delany, John Edgett, Pat Foley, John Foley, D. D. Frazier, William Fox, N. C. Frazier, George Fry, Michael Gleeson, W. F. Grummons, Thomas Gilroy, S. A. Greenslit, James Head, Iver Iverson, Sevil Iverson, Evan Trana Iverson, Holger Jacobus, Magnus Johnson, Ole Johnson, Robert Jones, Hobert Jackson, W. H. Jewell, A. Jackson, Mary Keeland, Wm. Kilmer, John Kumro, John Kluster, Edward Klmsmidt, James Leary, Peter Lahti, John Landy, Louis Lacroix, Jr., Fred LaCroix, Thomas Miller, Jerry O'Shea, Enbert Olson, J. P. O'Shea, Adelmer Price, Joseph L. Preston, D. W. Paul, Joshua Post, Wm. Post, Matis Peterson, John Quinlin, Patrick Quick, R. T. Richardson, John Reagan, Michael Reagan, Patrick Ryan, Phiney Raynold, J. H. Reagan, T. H. Sherwin, A. J. Sherwood, C. H. Sherwood, John Stone, R. M. Simmons, S. H. Sands, Henry Sheer, Clemans Tretbar, John Tracy, Henry Tis-

del, O. T. Tubbs, Daniel Tracy, Wm. Tracy, Daniel Tripp, John Vogtman, John R. Wimer, Henry Whitchee, Patrick Williams, Warren Wilkins, Wolfgang Wise, O. T. Warner, Fred Vager, Peter Murphy, George McCullough, Alex. McConnell, John Manly.

Madaline Buerry, the daughter of George Buerry, was born Nov. 16, 1861. This has been given as the first white birth in the township, but this is an error, as several of the La Croix children were born in the township many years before. An early marriage after the Massacre was that of William Tracy and Mary Kilmer. Early priests brought the consolations of the Roman Catholic church to the La Croix family and their relatives in the earliest days. The first Protestant services were by Rev. Henry Singenstrue, of the German Methodists, in the summer of 1860.

The first school in the vicinity of Morton was taught by Laura Simmons in the home of L. D. Griffin some two and a quarter miles east of Morton.

Birch Cooley township was organized on April 2, 1867, and then embraced all the county lying in range 34. It has had its present boundaries since July 29, 1874. The first election was held the fall of 1867 at the home of Joseph L. Preston in charge of George Bowers, Henry J. Witcher and Terrence Brazil, Sr. The records of this first meeting have been lost.

Birch Cooley, the first village platted in Renville county, was surveyed in June, 1866, by David Watson on lands owned by Louis La Croix. It had a store, blacksmith shop, warehouse and a few residences, but there being no other village in the county to awaken in the Cooleyites the spirit of rivalry, no progress was made. The village was burned in 1871.

When the M. & St. L. Railroad was projected the township of Birch Cooley voted bonds of \$5,000. Upon reaching Morton, a rocky formation near the river and the tracks ended some 400 feet from the river bank. They were not extended westward until some two years later. Taking advantage of the technicality of the 400 feet unfinished, the township refused to pay the bonds. In the litigation which followed the township won. For some years the bonds were alleged to be lost, though the money was ready for their payment. Of this money, the township lost some \$3,300 when the Farmers Bank of Beaver Falls failed.

BIRD ISLAND TOWNSHIP.

Bird Island township embraces township 115-34. It is bounded on the north by Kingman township, on the east by Melville township, on the south by Norfolk township and on the west by Troy township. The villages of Bird Island and Olivia are within its boundaries.

The township of Bird Island was organized Oct. 2, 1876, and an election was held at the home of Joseph Feeter, Oct. 21,

1876, at which seven votes were cast and the following officers elected: Supervisors, Charles Humboldt (chairman), J. H. Feeter and J. Balsey; Clerk, J. S. Bowler; assessor, Benjamin Feeder; treasurer, Nahum Tainter; justices, Edward Bowler and R. G. Harter; constables, George Miller and John Engstrom.

The present officers of the township are: Supervisors, Mike Jungers (chairman), John Hopman, John Menz; clerk, R. S. Amberg.

The story of the early settlement of Bird Island has been told for this work by J. M. Bowler, as follows:

"In the spring of 1871, Captain John King, a Civil war veteran, of Hastings, filed on a Government homestead in Palmyra, Renville county, near the southwest corner. He gave to his neighbors such a rosy account of the country that, when he went to improve his homestead late in October, he was accompanied by Marion Boyer, Calvin Boyer, Nicholas O'Brien, Joseph S. Bowler, James M. Bowler and John A. Johnson, all except Johnson being Civil war veterans and entitled to a full 160-acre homestead. The party had four teams and journeyed via New Ulm, Fort Ridgeley and Birch Coulie. We camped nights and had a jolly trip. We took along materials enough to build a claim shanty, 14 by 16 feet, on King's homestead. He had told us that the whole township (now Palmyra) was vacant and ours for the taking. Eager to reach the promised land, we plied him with all manner of questions about it. He assured us that the nearest settlers, in Birch Coulie, were a mixed population, but when confronted with the names Reagan, Leary, McLaughlin, Pat Williams, Gillen, Dougherty and others of the same "mixed" significance which he had given us in his glowing account of his former trip to that land of milk and honey, he humorously admitted, now that we had come too far to turn back, that the people were all like himself, of a fierce Irish clan, who would help him to make way with the rest of us and he would have our teams, wagons and outfits and be able to start farming in good shape. But, after a good hearty laugh, Cap affected to relent and said that, as we had been neighbors and friends so long, he would get some red paint at Fort Ridgeley, paint our mouths, change our names and pass us off as Irish. Said he, 'There is O'Brien, his name is all right; the Boyers we'll change to Bogerty and the Bowlers to Bolarity; your mugs are all right and will pass for Irish anywhere. But that Swede Johnson; no use to change his name; he can't hit the brogue; they'll kill him sure.'

"Camping at Birch Coulie on the last leg of our outward trip, we met a goodly number of those same Irish and were received with the generous hospitality peculiar to pioneers and which culminated in long years of mutual regard and friend-

ship. Some have passed on to a better sphere, but a few of us remain, and though scattered, occasionally meet and greet each other with the old time fervor. The subject would fill a book, precious with memories to the sturdy characters who bore a worthy part in the settlement of one of Minnesota's finest counties.

"From Birch Coulie in the early morning we drove out to Capt. King's claim. As far as we could see, 'vacant' Palmyra was dotted with board and sod claim shanties. Before supper we had built King's shanty and had it ready for occupancy that night when we noticed a man on horseback coming towards us. He proved to be Ed. H. Oleson, who was for many years thereafter a well-known resident of Renville county. He presented to King for his signature a petition for organizing the town of Palmyra. It already contained the signatures of a goodly number of petitioners. As King read the paper I looked over his shoulder and read it, too. The names were all Norwegian or Swede. King turned to me and said, 'My name is Kingson; what's yours?' I replied, 'I'm a Bowler.' That night, with blankets over it, but nothing under us but the cold, frozen prairie, we were kept busy rolling over and over in vain efforts to get warm.

"The next day, piloted by Ed. H. Oleson, we went claim hunting, but lost our bearing, and towards evening brought up amongst the sloughs in the southwest corner of what is now the town of Melville. The next morning, led by Pat Williams, we followed the survey north through what is now Norfolk into Bird Island and by 4 o'clock that afternoon had the Boyers located in section 28, Johnson in 32, O'Brien and J. S. Bowler in 26 and J. M. Bowler in 24. Williams was a powerful man physically, mentally alert and keen, and a great hustler. You couldn't lose him where Uncle Sam's marks were to be found on the prairie. He was at one time county commissioner. He died a few years ago in Minneapolis where some of his sons have become prominent in business.

"November 4 we went to the United States land office at New Ulm and made our homestead filings, the first ones in the township except that of Rev. Nahum Tainter, made November 3, on land in section 24. He and I were neighbors for many years. Like myself, he had faults, and we sometimes foolishly met in anger which has long since melted into kindly remembrance of his many generous acts, for which I feel myself greatly indebted to him.

"The evening of November 6, after a day's dreary drive in a cold rain, found us at home again. Next day my son, Burton H., came to celebrate the prospect of our new home on the prairie where just 21 years later he cast his first vote. May 5, 1872, in prairie schooners, we drove on

to our respective claims and camped while we hauled lumber from Atwater, 30 miles north of us, half the way trackless prairie. Sometimes we got stuck in sloughs and had to pack our loads to dry land and then haul the wagon ashore with team at one end of several rods of rope and wagon at the other end. It was trying work, but we were in the prime of manhood with hope and the grand future of Renville county to beckon us on. Our nearest post office and trading point was at Beaver Falls, the county seat, 15 miles distant 'as the crow flies.'

"There was everything to do; homes and shelter for stock to build; prairie to be broken, and hay to be put up, and fuel to be hauled a dozen miles or more.

"Wild geese, ducks, sand-hill cranes and prairie chickens abounded and there were some fine herds of elk which furnished sport for the huntsman and good eating for the table.

"A few settlers came to our neighborhood that summer: Newton G. Poor, George Yeager and Ferdinand Steffen from Hastings, and Benjamin Feeder and J. H. Feeter from New Ulm, and later Edward Bowler, Samuel Caleff, J. J. Stearns, John Engstrom, Richard Camish, Sam Camish, Hamline V. Poor, George H. Megquier, Ferdinand Wolff, Kjel Olson and others whose names I do not recall.

"We raised a small crop of wheat and oats in 1873, and Libbens White came six miles with his machine and crew, uninvited, and threshed for us.

"In 1875 the grasshoppers made their appearance in Renville county, doing more or less damage in certain localities in 1875 and 1876. In 1877 they made nearly a clean sweep and went away almost in a day while wheat was in the milk. I saved forty acres of wheat by fighting the 'hoppers with coal tar and threshed over 800 bushels of the best wheat I ever raised. Some farmers raised a little, but most of the fields were eaten bare of everything but sorrel and wild buckwheat. Many settlers left their claims and some never returned.

"In 1878 the H. & D. Railroad was extended from Glencoe west through Renville county, which brought in settlers with a rush and put the villages of Hector, Bird Island, Olivia, Renville and Sacred Heart on the map. Bird Island possessed the advantage of being the end of a division. It became ambitious and went after the county seat. At the legislative session of 1879 it secured the passage of an act removing the county seat from Beaver Falls to Bird Island, subject to a vote of the people at a special election, at which removal was defeated. It could have been carried by good management but those of us who took an active part in it failed for want of knowledge of the proper methods. We simply did not 'know how.' County seat removals are usually dirty

jobs. One dose was enough for me and I never again took an active part in one.

"Blizzards were a feature in Renville county in those days. Sometimes for 48 hours or more at a stretch fine snow would be driven before a cold northwest gale of such force that the strongest of men could not keep their feet without support of some sort, and few could survive long when exposed. Many a hair-breadth escape could be related and not a few lost their lives by being caught out in them. Many cattle perished in them. In 1875 a Mr. Nelson, traveling from Willmar south on skis, got caught in a fierce blizzard. He sought to save himself by digging himself in under the snow and waiting for the storm to subside. One hour was enough to convince him that he would freeze to death if he remained there, so he resumed his journey, going southeast before the gale. In the night one ski came off, and, not being able to fasten it on, he took the other one off, left them, but retained his balancing stick and kept on. About 28 hours brought him into our neighborhood some 35 miles southeast from Willmar. He heard a dog bark, but, as he could not see in the blinding snow and could not follow the sound of the dog, there was nothing he could do but drift along with the storm until finding himself in some very tall, coarse slough grass, and being almost exhausted from cold, hunger and walking in the snow, he again dug in, but soon found that he would perish there, and on he went again. About half a mile brought him to the sled-track from my house to Beaver Falls, which he noticed by mere chance, and some guardian angel must have caused him to follow the track to the left towards my house, about 80 rods distant. The first sign of land was the corn stubble; then he stumbled on to my sled in the door-yard, and the woodpile sticking out through the snow. Finally he hit the house which he had been unable to see though only 15 feet from the woodpile. His knock on the door surprised us as would a voice from the grave. Needless to say we took him in and did for him the best we knew how. His feet and hands were pretty badly frozen and the fine snow had penetrated and packed into his clothing almost like ice. His shoes and overcoat were quite light for winter. But he was a man of iron with the courage of a lion. He said it was the second time in his life that he had worn an overcoat.

"In a few days the weather moderated and we were able to take him to Hart's at Lake Lillian, where, under the intelligent treatment and nursing of good Mother Hart, his hands and feet were saved in good condition. Hart's was the half-way house between Bird Island and Atwater, our grain market and trading point. The old settlers spent many a pleasant night under his roof and enjoyed to the limit Mrs. Hart's excellent cooking. During the spring run they secured some good

hauls of fish from Crow river, the outlet of Lake Lillian.

"Once a bunch of us with seven teams returning from Atwater were overtaken by a fierce blizzard, but were able to reach Hart's about supper time. The storm did not abate its fury for 36 hours. All but myself refused to move until the weather cleared. I pulled out about 10 o'clock the next forenoon for home, 15 miles due south, with the northwest gale and blinding snow beating my back and right side. Once started there was no such thing as turning back, and there was no place to stop. It was simply go on and take the chances or perish. Not a rod of the way could the team move faster than a slow walk. Safety depended on the ability of my team to keep the track and hold out until we could reach home. All I could see was my sled and team and the swirling clouds of finest snow, which at the distance of a few yards became as dense as an ocean fog. The roar of the storm was terrifying. If once we lost the track even by a few feet all hope was gone. Imagine if you can the state of one's mind under such conditions as hour after hour wore on without any change except when occasionally the horses became so blinded by ice gathering on their eye wipers that they would stop until I rubbed it off! While I was attending to one, the other would help himself by using me for a rubbing post.

"About four o'clock in the afternoon I reached Kjel Olson's, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of my home, and stopped long enough to ascertain that his family and stock were all right. He had remained at Hart's.

"The last half mile was across a lake three-fourths ice and the rest bunches of snow. It was getting dark and the storm, with increased fury, swept across the smooth bosom of the lake and up against the south shore and fringe of small willow trees. It blew my sled around and headed the team northwest. It was a most critical situation. I seemed to be wrestling with fate. I was almost home and thought fast and acted quickly with a supreme effort to reach it, and by making use of the small stretches of snow and rushing the team across the icy spaces I managed to reach the south shore and find the opening that led up through the willows into my door yard. Home, sweet home, at last! It was a great relief to me. My wife was amazed, but no less glad to see me. Somehow she and the children never seemed dearer to me than at that moment. It was a fool-hardy risk which I never repeated.

"One summer I received a bad puncture in the center of my left heel by stepping barefoot on a rusty nail. We had no doctor but applied home remedies and I kept right on at hard work, harvesting, threshing, plowing and hauling wheat to market, not able to touch my heel to the ground for more than six months, and much of the time I suffered intense pain. The winter

came on and I had to get my wood from the Bird Coulie bottoms, 15 miles away, over a winter trail but very little traveled. I usually started with my trusty team at the first streak of daylight and by 10 a. m. I was in the timber cutting my load, the team eating hay. An hour later the team and I took our noon meal, hooked up and picked up our load and started homeward, I being pretty well warmed up by the hurried exercise. For a mile going up out of the river bottoms it was pretty comfortable, but once fairly 'out on the prairie,' partly facing the bitter cold northwest wind, I would have to walk off and on, tip-toeing on my sore foot to keep from freezing, the poor horses patiently tugging away in the snow-filled track until we reached home, sometimes as late as nine o'clock in the evening and dark as Egypt. I had one very intelligent horse upon whom I depended to keep the trail and he never failed me.

"Those were severe trials, those long hours of wading in the snow, of bitter cold and sometimes storms, darkness and doubt. How different it seemed when the team was under cover and I 'toasting my shins' in the 'bosom of my family!'

"I finished my fuel job in February and then took time to attend to my sore heel. A pipe had formed in the wound, but I had kept it open and running. Screwing my courage up to the sticking point, I seized the glass syringe and bottle of corrosive sublimate and turpentine which Dr. Sherwin had prescribed sometime before, and injected the stuff into the wound. In almost no time I was holding my sore foot with both hands and dancing a hornpipe on the other. A few days later I repeated the operation. It did its perfect work by cleaning the wound of pipe formation and bringing out slivers of bone. It healed slowly and in a few months was as good as new."

A typical pioneer letter, written more than forty years ago by Joseph S. Bowler, gives a splendid picture of Bird Island life in the early days. The letter was written by Joseph S. Bowler, at Bird Island, July 6, 1873, to his sister, Georgetta, then living at Lee, Maine.

Joseph S. Bowler was one of the early settlers of Bird Island and was widely known throughout the county at the time of his death in 1887. He was popular and held in high esteem by Renville county people. The letter follows:

"Dear Sister Georgie: I suppose it seems a long time since I wrote to you, and indeed so it is—and I feel little like writing today, but duty impels me to. Yesterday I dug, or commenced to dig, a well, sunk it eleven feet, and today I feel the effects of it. I reached water but not in quantities to suit me, but not having a wind-lass to draw up the earth, I suspended. Eleven feet perpendicular is about as far as I can throw wet clay.

"We take but little recreation in this country. Sunday most of us rest a little. The Glorious Fourth I went to Madison's and helped him hoe garden part of the time, and part of the time we recreated. We intended to give the women and children a boat ride on the lake, but the wind blew and made it too rough. The children had sport, however, making marbles from clay.

"We have been fairly settled here four weeks, and it begins to look a little like home. We have a good garden and have had green peas once, but greens several times. I planted some seed of the box elder—a sizeable forest tree—very ornamental—and they are now three or four inches in height and growing finely, so you see I am near timber. Back of the house I have a row of California sunflowers. They look quite lofty. Sarah has a fine flower garden in blossom. For stock I have a cow, a Dorking hen, a Buff Cochon and a Pencil-neck Brahma cock—the poultry being a present to me. Madison is going to give me a young swan; he caught five in the lake a few days ago. I have borrowed a heifer from Madison to keep my cow company.

"For crops I have twenty acres of wheat, three-fourths acre of potatoes, one-half acre of beans and my garden. The spring being unusually wet, some of my wheat was drowned and will amount to but little, but the most of it is quite good. Have very few potato-bugs—not enough to notice. We have thousands of acres of natural meadow that produces from one to four tons of hay to the acre. In low places and swamps it is now as high as one's head. Throughout the country west of the big woods hay is worth just the cost of putting it up—about \$2.50 per ton.

"We now have a mail route through here. Started the first of the month. It runs from Beaver Falls east to Birch Coulie, thence north by us to Kosmos in Meeker county. After a time we shall try for a post office here. We can get our mail brought to us, however, so you see we are within the pale of civilization. Our post office address is Beaver Falls, Renville County, Minnesota, at present.

"There is some travel through here now; more than there was last summer, considerable. The route from Preston Lake to Bird Island was terra incognita before we came through to everybody but trappers, but, since we made a track through, emigrants go this way instead of taking the old route, which was farther north.

"I must give you some little account of our move up here this spring. Madison and I came up before our families did. After we got our crops in we were ready to start back. We waited one day for it to stop raining and on the 21st of May we started. After going a mile it commenced to rain and it poured for six hours. It seemed before that the land would hold

no more water. The sloughs were full and the high prairie was soft. During the first twelve miles we were nearly mired several times on high prairie, to say nothing of the sloughs, but I must explain this term 'slough' (western pronunciation, 'slew').

"Sloughs are either the natural drain from the prairie to the creeks and rivers, or are basins having no outlets and holding water some part of the season and mud when there is no water. If this were a timber country and the rainfall were greater, most of these sloughs would be creeks or lakes. This spring being so wet, all the sloughs filled with water and were in fact creeks. When a slough is narrow, say not more than two or three rods wide, it is not a difficult matter to cross, but when it is twenty rods wide or more it is no fun. The modus operandi of crossing sloughs with a load is this: take a long rope or chain—it should be long enough to cross the slough, but generally is not—attach it to the end of the wagon pole and get the horses as far from the wagon as possible. At the word 'Ready,' horses that have been there a few times will start on the canter and not stop till they are across, unless they get down in the mud, and, if they do, unhitch, drive them out and swing to the right or left and start again. These places are turnpiked and bridged in settled communities.

"But to return. After getting as wet as we could hold we got to Preston Lake and got some dinner and at night stopped about seven miles west of Glencoe. We got home all right in three and one-half days on Saturday. Sunday we rested and Monday we went to packing, intending to start Thursday morning. Got all ready Wednesday night but it rained so we waited till the next day, Friday. Friday morning Madison and I started with the team and stock, Vic and a girl who is stopping with us this summer going with us, also a young man who was going to look up land. We expected to reach Glencoe, the end of the railroad, Sunday night, so we arranged to have the families start on Monday morning and join us in Glencoe. Our household goods we had shipped to Glencoe and expected some of our folks from this settlement with teams to take them. I should tell you, however, that it had rained half the time we were at Nininger getting ready; and as we had to cross the Minnesota river at Shakopee, I feared that the ferry-boat would not run. I advised Madison to telegraph to Shakopee and ascertain whether that were the fact, but he had no idea that such was the case, and, as he knew more about the country than I, I did not urge the matter. We made good time Friday and camped at Credit river in Scott county. I had a little difficulty the first morning in breaking a heifer to the halter. Got an early start the next morning and at 9 o'clock a. m. were in Shakopee; and

lo! the river was all over the bottoms, and the current was like a mill race. No crossing with teams! Footpads could cross in a skiff, but as the ferry-boat was usually propelled by means of a rope that was played out, Madison went to the railroad depot and tried to get a car to put us across on the railroad bridge. He found he could not get one before Tuesday and then it would cost ten or twelve dollars; besides, we would have to take the wagon to pieces. I advised going back to St. Paul at once and get across the river by going around the mouth, crossing the Mississippi twice on bridges, once at St. Paul on the south side of the mouth of the Minnesota and back at Minneapolis on the north side. That would take us three days more. But, when Madison gets his mind made up to take one particular route, he sticks to that and nothing seems to deter him. He was bound to get across the Minnesota at Shakopee some way. We heard that a steamer was expected the next day, Sunday; and supposed we could get across on that. So Sunday morning a steamer did come, but wanted fifty dollars for setting our outfit across. So we let them go, and, as a last resort, Madison went to the ferry-man and induced him to let him have his ferry-boat and to help us get across if possible. It was a risky undertaking, for, had anything happened, horses and stock would have gone to the bottom. By working hard all day we got across without any accident, and camped at Chaska, five miles from Shakopee.

"When we found we could not cross at Shakopee, or supposed we could not, we telegraphed to our families to wait further advice. Monday morning we started and I went off the road about a mile to Carver and telegraphed to the folks to start at once. We went about ten miles further, to within a few rods of Carver creek, and found that we were balked again, for the bridge was washed away, and we were told that we must go back to Chaska and take another road. But, 'No,' says Madison, 'I can get to that other road without going all the way back to Chaska.' So he and I started to explore and found that we could get to the other road by going a mile south through woods and swamps—all of which we did, and got within six miles of Glencoe that Monday night. At eight o'clock Tuesday morning we were in Glencoe waiting for the two o'clock train with the families. Rained that day. Found that the teams we had expected that day had come, taken a part of Madison's goods and all of mine and gone on. So we concluded we would lie by the remainder of the day and take a fair start Wednesday. Got the women and babies in a house, put the children in the wagon and we camped on the ground.

"Started early next morning and at night reached Preston Lake without getting stuck in the mud. From Preston Lake we

have the wild prairie for twenty miles. Started Thursday morning from Preston Lake, and went four miles when we came to a slough which was practically a creek at this time. Got stuck and horses down. I packed the women and babies across in my arms and made the larger children wallow. Got through that by hitching to the end of a long chain. Went one mile further and came to a worse slough, with water waist deep. Unloaded the women and children and packed them all across the slough, lengthened out the rig and got across without miring the horses. Went three or four miles more and came to another slough; tried to cross without hitching out as it was narrow, though deep; mired the team; took them off; packed the women and children across; hitched out and got across. Concluded to take dinner—did so—started after dinner and two miles on we came to the worst slough on the route, very wide. I packed Sarah and Lizzie across and the boys that were with us took the babies and Eddie; Vic and the other girl wallowed. Got across that after getting the horses down four times, and before we finally got across had to run the wagon some distance by hand as the horses could get no footing. We had no trouble after that but got home in good season. Since that time we have had pleasant weather though rather warm; the sloughs have partially dried and the traveling is rather better. So much for that.

"You write to know whether you can get a school up here. Schools are scarce on the frontier, and we are not yet acquainted, so I could not give you any encouragement in that line. I suppose there is no school nearer than ten miles. You need not wait for a school, however, for you can come and find a home without that.

"We are all as well as usual. Sarah is not very strong yet. We have the best baby on the big prairie. I call him fine looking, too. He does not average one cry a day and would not cry at all if he was attended to properly.

"I have now written more than you usually write in six letters. I want to hear from you soon. I hope father will come out here. I will write him in a few days, though he owes me three or four letters. Love to all. Sarah sends much love. Madison's folks are as usual. Truly your brother, (signed) J. S. Bowler."

C. L. Lorraine, now of East Jordan, Mich., and formerly well known in Bird Island, in a letter to J. M. Bowler, now of Minneapolis, also formerly of Bird Island, has the following to say in regard to Bird Island weather:

"Bird Island, which is located on about the highest point of land within fifty miles in every direction, can easily claim the record for wind. Early in the early eighties, R. D. Young, then agent for the C. M. & St. P. Ry. at that place, secured a set of signal service instruments and

made regular reports to the United States weather service. For some years, month for month, while this was kept up Bird Island not only held the record for velocity of wind but was usually 100 per cent or more higher than the next lower station in Minnesota. At one time the wind was too strong to read the gauge-meter for one day, and when it was read the next day, it showed over 2,500 miles in the 48 hours, or an average of over 52 miles per hour for the whole 48 hours.

"During twelve months, taking in the growing season of 1886 and the preceding winter, the total precipitation—rain and snow—at Bird Island was less than 9 inches of water. During the winter the ground froze to great depth and frost cracks several inches across in places and from four to six feet deep opened. The crop of grain next year, while short of straw, was quite good. The deep freezing, which did not thaw out until the growing season was well along, kept the roots moist and healthy. In most places with such a drouth there would have been no crops.

"The winter of 1887-88 was notable for heavy snow and its great drifts. In exposed places the drifts were solid from peaks of roof of building to the ground on the west and south sides, which were used by the 'kids' for coasting. The railroad company kept its line well open to Bird Island, but from there west the drifts were too solid to shovel or to buck with their heavy 'Earling' snowplows. That year the rotary snowplows made their appearance, the C. M. & St. P. purchasing one of the first two made and brought it to this line to try out. They cleared the track about a mile and a half west of Bird Island when in a heavy drift they snapped the great shaft of the rotary, putting it out of commission until a new shaft could be gotten from Passaic, N. J. This delayed the opening of the road two weeks, during which time several score of passengers were marooned at Bird Island, the women and children being taken into the homes and given the best the people could do, though at that time the stock of flour ran so low that supplies had to be shipped in by express before freights began to move. When the railroad was finally cleared of snow, more than two-thirds of the way from Bird Island to Granite Falls, there was just a ditch through the drifts with the sides from three to twenty feet high."

The first real estate assessment of Bird Island township, 115-34, was made in 1876. Those assessed were: Charles Humboldt, section 6; Ben Feeder, 14; Marion Boyer, 28; Thomas Gage, 30 (note to effect that this was transferred to H. S. Works); Laura A. Gage, 30; Calvin Boyer, 28. In 1877, there were added to this list: John McIntosh, 8; Nicholas O'Brien, 26; James M. Bowler, 24.

By 1881, quite a number of people had

acquired property in Bird Island township, 115-34, the real estate assessment that year being as follows: T. H. Kelly, section 1; T. S. Ashmore, 3; J. S. Bowler, 2; J. B. Lambert, 3, 10; C. Hurd, 5; J. Carp, 5; C. Humboldt, 6; James Burnes, 6; Thos. Lucy, 7; N. Stone, 7; Stephen McIntosh, 8; S. R. Miller, 2, 23; C. J. Gates, 6; W. R. Marshall, 12; Jos. H. Feeter, 14; J. M. Bowler, 14, 24; Benj. Feeder, 14; D. L. Babcock, 17; James Greeley, 17; Lizzie Bowler, 13; Geo. W. Miller, 18; John Nester, 18; Wm. Wolff, 20; Peter Henry, 17; Mary Casey, 21 (note to effect that this was transferred to F. Hodgdon); Alfred LaBolt, 21; Thomas Olta, 23; Mary A. Stone, 24; N. Tainter, 24; E. D. Stone, 24; G. O. Robertson, 26; Marion Beyer, 28; Calvin Beyer, 28; Thos. Gage, 30; Laura Gage, 30; James Curran, 30; John Revere, 32; John Johnson, 34; Fred Kromer, 36; P. J. Harvey, 36; Jerome Balsley, 30; H. D. Jackson, 20; Selah Chamberlain, 14; Frank U. Moore, 25.

The first personal property assessment of Bird Island township, 115-34, was made in 1876. Those assessed were: Jerome Balsley, J. E. Barker, Edward Bowler, J. M. Bowler, J. S. Bowler, James Curren, J. E. Engstrom, Benjamin Feeter, J. H. Feeter, Erastus Fouck, Charles Humboldt, J. C. Hodgdon, John King, J. B. Lambert, George Miller, William Morse, John Nester, Nicholas O'Brien, John J. Stearns, L. W. Stearns, Harry Sawyer, Joseph Sharbine, Nahum Tainter.

Those paying personal taxes in Bird Island township in 1915 were: R. S. Amberg, F. J. Abraham, Herman Brown, H. T. Beyers, Fred Baumgardner, Charles Beckeler.

The naming of Bird Island constitutes a most interesting story. In the early days the sloughs and swales formed an island in section 15 in what is now the township of Bird Island. The prairie fires which prevented the growth of timber could not reach this island and consequently a heavy grove grew thereon. Most of these trees were of the hackberry variety. Some measure from forty to sixty feet from the ground to the lowest limbs, while they were from fifteen to thirty inches in diameter. This island furnished a favorite camping place for Indians and trappers and provided timber for the early settlers. There is still a grove on the spot and is the only natural growth of trees for many miles, all the other groves having been planted since the settlers arrived. Not far from this island and located in section 24, extending into section 13, was a lake known as Pelican lake as deep in some places as eight feet. This lake is now drawn off and crops are planted in its bed.

Mrs. Lizzie S. Bowler, wife of Major J. M. Bowler, underwent many interesting experiences in the early days. In an article prepared for this work she says:

The thought of Renville county awakens

many pleasant recollections and I am pleased to know that a history of it is being prepared for I spent many of the best years of my life there and five of my children were born and reared there on the soldier's homestead which my husband took in 1871.

In 1856 my father and mother with their three daughters left the eastern home with all its comforts and immigrated to Minnesota where we built a new home on the raw prairie. That experience was helpful when later I repeated it in Renville county where we had to endure so much inconvenience and hardship.

In June, 1873, my husband came back to our home in Niniger where we had lived since the war, and we packed our belongings. He, with a team, stock and oldest daughter, Victoria, started for our new home in Bird Island. My husband had been up there since the early spring, had put in wheat in his land that he had broken and had prepared the ground and sowed the flower seed which I had given him. It did well and in due time the beautiful flowers came to remind us of the old home. The contrasting colors could be noted at quite a distance on the green prairie.

My sister-in-law, Mrs. Joseph Bowler, and I with our children had to go on the train from Hastings to Glencoe for that was as far as the cars ran, and we did not go for a couple of days after the others so as to give them time to get to Glencoe by the time we arrived. When we got there they were waiting for us. Their trip was full of adventure, especially getting across the Minnesota river at Shakopee owing to high water which covered the river bottoms deeply from bluff to bluff. They joined forces with David Sivright, of Hutchinson, who was awaiting with four horses and a buggy to cross. They spent an entire day rigging sweeps onto an old, discarded ferry-boat and navigating across the swift river current until they grounded in shallow water several rods from the opposite shore, when stock, teams and passengers took to the water and all waded ashore. They paid \$5.00 for the use of the old craft and went on their way rejoicing. There was considerable risk in crossing, but they took it like men.

After fixing ourselves comfortably in our prairie schooner carriage, we left Glencoe and started for Bird Island, our future home, over 36 miles of the worst road I ever saw; and many places there was no road. After several hours' ride we reached the hospitable and comfortable home of Mr. Houck at Preston Lake. The next morning we were quite refreshed and anxious to resume our journey. Had we not been full of hope and the pioneer life our faint hearts would have failed us at what lay before us. We had to cross many sloughs which were the terror of every one at that time. When we came to one, two young men and the brother of my hus-

band who were with us would drive the team across, or rather, try to, and sometimes they would mire in the mud and water with just their heads sticking out; but after this kind of performance they succeeded in getting across, and, hitching the horses to the tongue of the wagon by a long, strong rope, would pull it across. Then Mr. Bowler's brother would carry his wife and me over and the children would wade. This was repeated many times during the afternoon, but just before sunset that beautiful June day we arrived at our destination glad that we were all there and able to refresh ourselves with the food we had taken with us.

The next day my husband with the young men who came with us had to go to Beaver Falls for flour and other necessities, and the young men went to the land office at Redwood Falls. I had enough flour in the house for one baking; it was a warm day and, while baking my bread, I took the children out and sat in the cover of the wagon which had been taken off the wagon and left near the house. I heard someone speak, and, looking up, recognized a man whom we had met on the prairie the day before who said he was from Wisconsin and was hunting a claim. He came near where I and the children were sitting and asked me to give his wife and two little girls something to eat—said they had been wandering around lost on the prairie all the night before. I told him to hitch his horses to his wagon box and wait till the bread was baked. There was a cake, too, in the oven, and they should have something. I made a cup of tea for Mrs. Olson, for that was their name. After living in their wagon box most of the summer, they finally located north of Hector, where the family continues to own a nice farm.

There were no trees to be seen in all the country around, but those that grew on Bird Island—a little piece of land surrounded by sloughs so the fire had not killed the timber.

Our place was on the south side of what was then called "Pelican Lake," so called because of the number of pelican that used to be in it during the spring and fall. There were also some swan and they hatched their young in the grass nearby. The wild fowl of many kinds made that their home. As my husband plowed the land after harvest, he took his gun along and as he went up and down near the lake would fire at the geese and ducks and many times would have several dripping pans of ducks. One Saturday afternoon, after spending all the forenoon cleaning ducks and preparing for the Sabbath, for we never forgot the Sabbath and felt that God watched over us, I sat down to rest. I heard some one speak and looked out of the window. There was a span of horses with a large carriage with several men and women; they were friends from a dis-

tance of thirty miles. The first thought that came to me was: "What shall I do with them in a shanty with only one room?" But again we brought the covered wagon box into use for one bed room, and when bed-time came, we were all comfortably laid away for the night. The next day (Sunday) we visited, talked over old times and had plenty of good things to eat and enjoyed it as much as though it had been a palace; and when Monday morning came and our friends had returned to their homes, we felt that we had had a very enjoyable time and we were glad they came. Those were the first women I had seen after I went there except my neighbors, Mrs. N. G. Poor and Mrs. J. S. Bowler. About the first of September Mr. Bowler's father came from Maine. On September 25 our daughter Kate, now Mrs. George E. Butler, of Sleepy Eye, was born, the first white child born in Bird Island township. The years as they came and went were filled with many joys and sorrows.

In November of that year we rigged up our prairie schooner again and started for Nininger, Dakota county, where we were to spend the winter and where my husband was to teach a four-months' school. After spending a very pleasant winter, we returned to our home in Renville county and started in with all our farming operations and to put an addition to our house, but it was not long before the grasshoppers began to come.

The year before they had been in the southern part of the county but there were not enough of them to do much harm to crops, but along the beaten roads and wherever they could find bare spots, they deposited their eggs and for three seasons they remained, but for some reason did not do the damage to our crops that they had done nearer the Minnesota river. But we were kept anxious fearing they would take everything, even clover and grass. But the summer, with its terrible storms and mosquitoes, was passing when the harvest came. By this time we began to have a number of neighbors and they all joined together to harvest and thresh. We had finished ours and the whole crew of neighbors had gone over to N. O'Brien's place. As he had no family the women had given him food for their dinner.

Among the rest of our neighbors was a German blacksmith who was helping. Just at night there was a terrible thunder-shower and wind-storm came up and they started him home. He had to go past our place and he had quite a distance to go to his home. As he drove up near our house to leave the pans and pails that they had taken the dinner in, he jumped out of his wagon into a big tub of clothes I had left there when the shower came up. You can imagine how I felt, but could not help laughing, but oh! my clothes filled with prairie mud.

My husband had to be away a great deal for every stick of wood was hauled from Birch Coulie and all lumber from Atwater or Glencoe. Our daughter, Victoria, who was then eleven years old, was my help indoors and out, for there was no help to be had and no place to put help if we could get it.

The winter of 1874-75 was a terrible winter on the prairie. Snow, snow, snow everywhere and every few weeks a terrible blizzard! One fine winter day our neighbor, N. G. Poor, came down about three-fourths of a mile distant from the end of the lake. The neighbors exchanged papers, for it was hard to get the mail from the post office at Beaver Falls, and we were glad to get any news from the outside world. He brought what papers he had to exchange, got his papers and sat talking. Mr. Bowler went to the stable to do the work and after while came back in the house. Mr. Poor said he must go and my husband said, "I guess not." Mr. Poor said, "Why not?" and my husband replied, "Because there is a big blizzard." Sure enough, and Mr. Poor did not dare to start for home until noon of the third day. But we had a good time visiting, reading, sleeping and eating.

Our chimney was a stove-pipe going through the roof of the house. As the snow filled the pipe, it froze and clogged the pipe so the smoke could not get out. Something had to be done so the men tied ropes around their waists and fastened it to the house and started out to go on top of the house and to the root cellar where all the good things to eat were and get something for dinner. Soon they cleared the chimney and succeeded in digging their way into the cellar and came in with a dishpan full of vegetables, nice home-cured ham, canned fruit, etc., and, while the ropes were on, they went to the stable to feed the stock. Now this is what is meant by a blizzard to the early settlers of Renville county. There were three of those blizzards that winter with many snow storms that might have been called bad.

But we were young then with health and hope, and though the home building was very rude, our home within was filled with contentment and love and we looked for the time when the home without would be more pretentious.

I have given you just a little taste of what the first settlers of Renville county had to undergo to pave the way for those who are enjoying all the comforts of life. I could go on and fill a large book with the ups and downs as they came to us but think I have said enough that whoever reads this will understand what a pioneer has to endure.

BEAVER FALLS TOWNSHIP.

Beaver Falls township, formerly known as Beaver township, is located in the

southern part of the county. It is bounded on the west by Flora township, on the north by Henryville township, on the east by Birch Coulee township, and on the south by Redwood county, from which it is separated by the southeastward course of the Minnesota river. Beaver creek passes through the township from northeast to southwest, emptying into the Minnesota river. The surface of the township is a rolling prairie and the soil is a black loam with a clay subsoil. The valley of the creek is heavily wooded and the bottomlands along the Minnesota are also wooded.

The story of Beaver township before the Outbreak has already been told. The first settlers in Beaver township after the Outbreak were Diedrich Wichmann and family. They came in the spring of 1865, and moved into a shed on their former claim. When the family escaped on the opening day of the Outbreak in 1862 they had returned to their former home in Illinois. In the fall of 1864 they had come back to Minnesota and located in Redstone, below New Ulm, in Nicollet county, where they operated the ferry. It was that fall that the father and some of the sons made a trip to their former home in Beaver, and found that their cabin was still standing. When the whole family came in the spring of 1865, however, the cabin had been burned, probably by trappers, and they took up their home in the straw shed. But they had been there but a short time when news came that the Indians were again on the rampage. Mr. Wichmann accordingly took his family back to Redstone. Then with his three oldest sons and Henry Ahrens, who in the meantime, after the Massacre, had been living in Illinois, he came back to his claim. They were encouraged in this by Col. William Pfaender, then in command at Ft. Ridgely. Col. Pfaender believed that the danger was past, and that settlers were safe in settling in the country ravaged by the Massacre. He knew that the departure of the Wichmanns would discourage other settlers from coming. He accordingly offered Mr. Wichmann arms and ammunition and told him that he would be protected. Mr. Ahrens found his house still standing. Mr. Wichmann and his three sons spent the summer in erecting a house and in putting in a crop. The lumber was hauled from New Ulm. In the fall the Wichmann family came from Redstone, and with them the Ahrens family, and Albert Schaefer and family. These were the only settlers in Beaver that fall.

Before the Massacre an attempt was made to give the name "Upson" to the township, but after the county was organized the name of Beaver was given. This has never been officially changed. But the village was named Beaver Falls and gradually the name of the village came to be applied to the township. When the town was organized April 2, 1867, it took

in all of range 35 lying within the county. It has had its present boundaries since 1875. The first township election was held in 1867 at the store of C. Prignitz in Beaver Falls village.

The earliest official records of this township are not preserved. The records are continuous since Nov. 26, 1870, and are in the custody of the clerk, William Zumwinkle. At the meeting held on Nov. 26, 1870, the commissioners present were L. E. Morse (chairman), James O'Neil, Sr., and John Dagen. Darwin S. Hall was appointed clerk in place of P. H. Swift, resigned. Petitions for town roads presented by A. H. Babcock and others, and J. Sharp and others, were rejected on account of the informality of their presentation. The bridge across Beaver creek, built by Essler Brothers, was accepted and the last order drawn in payment for same.

There is now a town hall located in the village of Beaver Falls. It was erected as a store building some time between 1866 and 1870 and in 1871 was occupied by Peter Henry and James Greely.

The present officers are: Supervisors, Henry Ahrens (chairman), Louis Zinne and John Schweinfurter; clerk, William Zumwinkle; treasurer, Henry Schafer; assessor, F. E. Zumwinkle.

The first real estate assessment of Beaver township was made in 1868. Those assessed in 113-35 that year were: Percy & George Burch, section 22; Thomas Barkey, 20; Patrick Barkey, 20; Fred Blum, 27; James Carrothers, 22; David Carrothers, 22, 21; Henry Carstens, 27; ———— Angell, 28; Albert Dagen, 26, 35; R. W. Earl and S. J. Comstock, 22; William C. Essler, 22; William C. Essler and D. Carrothers, 22; Essler & Read, 22; Isaac & Albert Fuller, 22; Rufus M. Gage, 17; Henry Hipple, 15, 27; F. H. Homier, 20; Frank B. and Lycurgus Hall, 20; Carl Holtz, 22; Andrew Hunter, 22, 27, 28; Benedict Juni, 25, 26; August Linderman, 7; John Meyer, 7; Mary Martin, 13; L. E. Morse, 27; Newell Morse and G. F. Marsh, 26, 27; H. W. Nelson, 15, 19, 20; Isaac Renville, 20, 29; Mary Renville, 11, 12; Mary S. Robertson, 22; T. H. Risinger, 20; Franz W. Smith, 14; N. D. White, 15, 20; Fred Yager, 27.

The first personal property assessment of Beaver township (113-35) was made in 1869. (This probably included some of township 114-35, now Henryville.) Those assessed were: John Arnet, Henry Ahrens, G. W. Burch, R. Butler, F. Blume, Sr., Henry Blume, Jas. Blair, P. Barkey, Jas. Butler, T. H. Barkey, I. A. Busch, E. E. Comstock, David Carrothers, James Carrothers, W. W. Clift, A. D. Corey, C. W. Cory, H. Carstens, ———— Churchel, L. A. Colson, R. R. Corey, John Dagen, Albert Dagen, W. H. Davis, L. W. Dibble, R. W. Earl, Jasper Fisher, David Ferguson, A. Garroty, J. M. Greely, Hodgdon & McClure, T. H. Homin, Carl Holtz, L. Hall, James Holdin, D. S.

Hall, W. Hall, F. B. Hall, J. Hemecks, L. Herbert, Andrew Hunter, J. S. G. Honner, H. Hipple, Andrew Johnson, Jacob Krell, Joseph Kartack, F. S. Kinney, August Lindermann, George B. Legg, Newell Morse, B. G. McKay, L. E. Morse, F. F. Marsh, Robert, Nicholson, H. W. Nelson, Steven O'Neil, John O'Neil, William O'Neil, Charles O'Neil, N. O'Neil, James O'Neil, Sr., James O'Neil, Jr., A. Pregler, Caroline Pregnitz, ———— Phelps, T. H. Risinger, Hiram Rich, William Read, Joseph Rourk, Walter Rul, Caleb Rich, John Renville, Geo. A. Read, Jas. Swoboda, John Swoboda, Judson Seely, H. Seely, ———— Sargent, F. H. Swift, Peter Simmons, N. Stone, Homer Smith, Albert Shafer, Fred Storck, M. S. Spicer, N. Sheffer, Frantz W. Schmidt, Joseph Sharp, N. Swift, L. H. Tisdell, Louis Thiele, R. G. Weed, John H. White, E. F. Wickmann, N. D. White, D. Wichmann.

Beaver Falls Village, the first county seat of Renville county, was admirably situated on Beaver creek, one and a half miles from the Minnesota river in a circular valley, half a mile in extent, and surrounded by high bluffs. The first settler in the village was David Carrothers, who, with Col. Samuel McPhail, platted the village July 25, 1866. In January, 1867, Col. McPhail disposed of his interests to William C. Essler.

The first house was built by David Carrothers. The first general store was opened by Christian Pregnitz. The first hotel was erected by Louis Thiele. The first sawmill and gristmill in the village was that of Reid & Son. The first wagon shop was owned by Reinhold Hummel, followed soon afterward by Jerry P. Patten and Eben Snell in the same business; the first blacksmith shop by Henry Hipple; the first drug store by J. W. Barnard; the first shingle mill by R. G. Weed; the first brewery by Henry Lump; the first meat market by D. J. Deasy; the first hardware store by John and P. W. Heins. The first banker was Hans Gronnerud; the first physician was Dr. T. H. Sherwin; the first attorney was P. H. Swift, the next George H. Megquier; the first postoffice was opened with M. S. Spicer as postmaster. It was discontinued in 1902 when Philip Meier was postmaster. The first church was the Methodist Episcopal, organized by Elder N. Swift; the next was the Episcopal. The cemetery is controlled by the Beaver Falls Cemetery Association.

The first birth after the outbreak was on February 4, 1866, when Edward Butler was born to James and Jane Butler. August 16, 1866, Ida May Carrothers was born to David and Elizabeth Carrothers.

Before the outbreak Rev. John Williamson, son of the missionary, Dr. T. S. Williamson, preached at Beaver, but Elder Hall, a Presbyterian clergyman from Redwood Falls, was the first to locate here. He preached regularly every two weeks in

1866 at Beaver. The first newspaper was the Beaver Falls Gazette, which was established in 1870 by J. A. Wells. The first justice was N. D. White. The first school was taught by Mrs. J. S. Greely in the fall of 1868, in a building owned by Hiram Rich.

The business of Beaver Falls in 1883 was as follows: One newspaper, the Renville Times, H. Kelsey, editor; one clergyman, Rev. John Lamberton, M. E.; one attorney, S. R. Miller; one store with general merchandise, by Peter Berndgen; one drug store, by Iver S. Gerald; one brewery, by A. Betz; one blacksmith, Gustave Strenzel; one harness-maker, Herman Zumwinkle; one shoemaker, Michael Keifer; one wagon-maker, R. Hummel; one hardware and agricultural store, by Heins & McClure; one hotel, the Dakota House, by Carl Holtz; two grist-mills.

The village was incorporated in 1889, but the incorporation was abandoned. The village now consists merely of a small cluster of buildings, the removal of the county seat having killed all its business.

Village lots in Beaver Falls were first assessed in 1868. The principal owners were Essler & Carrothers. Those who had already secured lots were: H. Hipple, lots 7, 8, block 11; lot 1, block 13; Hiram Rich, lots 11 and 12, block 11; C. Prignitz, lots 1 and 2, block 14. In 1870, the following names had been added: Andreas Betz, lots 8, 9, block 8; — Le Ferre, lot 9, block 9; Peter Henry, lot 10, block 9; Heins Bros., lots 11, 12, block 9; C. H. Drew, lot 7, block 10; R. Hummel, lots 8, 9, block 10; R. G. Weed, lot 10, block 11; William McHerron, lot 6, block 13; M. Fuller, lot 5, block 13; Louis Theile, lot 9, block 13; C. Henning, lots 1 and 2, block 14; D. S. Hall, lots 3 and 4, block 14; Michael Keifer, lots 9 and 10, block 14; J. and A. Fuller, lots 1 and 2, block 15; H. W. Nelson, lot 3, block 15; — Zumwinkle, lot 4, block 15; L. K. Stone, lot 5, block 15; James S. Chapman, lots 6 and 7, block 15; E. M. Snell, lot 8, block 15; I. P. Patton, lot 9, block 15; Henry Koelfgen, lot 1, block 18; P. H. Swift, lot 1, block 19; H. Stone, lots 3 and 4, block 21; Almeda Hodgdon, lot 5, block 21.

BROOKFIELD TOWNSHIP.

Brookfield township embraces township 116-32. It is bounded on the north by Meeker county, on the east by Boon Lake township, on the south by Hector township, and on the west by Osceola township.

Brookfield village centers at the corner of sections 6 and 7, Boon Lake township, and sections 1 and 12, Brookfield township. Church Hill is a center at the corner of sections 26, 27, 34, 35.

The first claims in this township were filed in 1865 by Edward K. Hitchcock, E. J. Tremper, David Harrington, Walter G. Horton and James Moore. The first school was taught in 1875 by E. K. Pellett in a building erected for the purpose. The

first marriage was that of Albert Brown and Franc Booth, in November, 1881. The first birth was May, daughter of John Porter, born May 1, 1874. July 21, 1874, occurred the first death, that of Wilder, son of John Wilt.

Brookfield was organized in 1874 and the first election held April 7 of that year at the home of Charles Foster. Supervisors, E. H. Pellet (chairman), C. E. Porter and Alexander Camp; clerk, C. E. Porter; assessor, George Taylor; treasurer, John Wilt; justices, Henry Gerard and Diton Grindal; constables, A. Camp and W. C. Fleet.

The first real estate assessment of Preston Lake township was made in 1869. Those assessed in 116-32, now Brookfield, were: Ezra Cornell, section 10; Ebin Fisher, 15; George W. Fisher, 15; R. H. Rogers, 24.

By 1870 quite a number of people had acquired property in township 116, range 32 (now Brookfield), the real estate assessed that year being as follows: E. K. Hitchcock, sections 2, 22; J. G. Todd, 2; Henry Jewett, 4; J. A. Beaver, 6, 30; Charles A. Barkuloo, 6, 8; C. H. Pettit, 8, 10, 17, 20, 29; Ezra Cornell, 10; Seth Adams, 10; E. J. Temper, 12; W. O. Horton, 12; D. G. Martin, 12; Daniel Henington, 13; W. C. Horton, 14, 23; W. S. Horton, 14; M. O. Thompson, 14; R. J. Mendenhall, 14; James Moore, 15; E. S. Fisher, 15; G. W. Fisher, 15; Adam Sheiner, 21; Henry Reitz, Jr., 21; R. H. Rogers, 24; Jacob Ritz, 28; Sarah M. Horton, 32.

The first personal property assessment of Brookfield, 116-32 (exclusively Brookfield), was made in 1874. Those assessed were John Booth, Alexander Camp, William Fleet, Henry Gerard, D. Grindle, E. H. Pellet, E. C. Porter, W. H. Simmons, Geo. Taylor, John Wilt.

Thomas Simmons' Reminiscences.—On June 3, 1875, in company with Nicholas Haft, and son Henry, I left Loda, Iroquois county, Illinois, with a horse team and a covered wagon, bound for Minnesota. July 12 we reached Albert Lea, and on July 20 we arrived safely at the home of my brother-in-law, James Chapman, in section 30, Boon Lake township, this county. With the Chapman family I remained until the next spring, my wife joining me November 25, 1875. On May 11, 1876, I took a homestead in section 25, Brookfield township, and here I have since made my home.

My neighbors in Brookfield were Henry Gerard, Bartimus Case, C. E. Porter, John Wilt, E. K. Pellet; while those in Boon Lake township were James Chapman (my brother-in-law), D. C. Graham, Jonas Post, W. S. Pierce and W. G. Simmons (my brother). W. H. Simmons, W. G. Simmons and James Chapman had settled in Boon Lake township as early as the spring of 1869.

Farming in pioneer times was done on a small scale and in a crude manner. The

ground, after being broken, was prepared with the aid of a wooden beam plow and a drag which had some twenty-four to thirty-six teeth, and to one corner of which the yoke of oxen were hitched, thus dragging it across the plowing, something after the manner of dragging a cat by the tail and doing just about as much good.

Living was not sumptuous in those days. How we really got along it is hard to say. We lived on bran, middlings and flour. Butter, meat and sugar were luxuries. But in spite of our privations, health and happiness prevailed all over this part of Renville county.

After we came the prairie fires were not so bad as they had been a few years previous as the settlers had learned to plow fire guards. Grasshoppers, however, did us a great deal of harm and caused us many hardships that we would not otherwise have experienced, for they ate up our garden produce, potatoes and grain. During the worst grasshopper year I harvested only 55 bushels of wheat. I harvested no oats and barley and corn was almost unknown at that time.

Blizzards were frequent. When we left home we were never sure but what a blizzard would for many days prevent our return. Sometimes the snow was from four to twenty feet deep. I remember a trip I took to Beaver Falls October 15, 1881. That night it commenced to snow, and it was more than a week before I could get home. The snow was four and a half feet deep on the prairie, and in some places around Beaver Falls it was said to have drifted fifty feet deep.

BOON LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Boon Lake township is located in the northwestern part of Renville county. It embraces township 116-31, and is bounded on the north by Meeker county, on the east by McLeod county, on the south by Preston Lake township and on the west by Brookfield township. It is rolling prairie, beautified by cultivated groves. Boon Lake, from which the township takes its name, is in the northwestern part. Hodgdon lake is in sections 20 and 21, and Phare lake is in sections 28 and 29. Allie lake comes into sections 33 and 34 from Preston Lake township.

The first claim was filed in 1856 by George M. Michael in section 34. In 1861 V. P. Kennedy and M. B. Ridsill took claims in sections 7 and 8. The first claim after the Massacre was taken in 1864 by William Fremming, in section 13. In 1865 those who filed on claims were Francis R. Maxwell, Augustus T. Perkins, William E. Merrill, E. U. Russell and Ira S. Sheppard.

While claims were taken in the township before the Massacre, nothing is now known as to whether any of the claimants actually lived here. The first settler who came after the Massacre was E. U. Russell, who came in 1865. Isa S. Sheppard secured

a claim in 1865, but did not move here with his family until June, 1866. Among other prominent early settlers were Rev. George D. Potter, Orrin Hodgdon, John Booth, Owen Carrigan, G. S. Edner, Frederick Eggert, Ernest Koeppe, C. D. McEwen, A. L. Pfeil, Timothy Cornish, William Phare, Thomas Simmons, William Simmons, Walter Simmons, N. H. Shafer, John Merrill and John Tyson.

Boon Lake was created September 6, 1870, and then included Brookfield. It has had its present boundaries since 1874. It is said that an election was held in the fall of 1870. There is no record of the supervisors elected. The other officers elected are said to have been: Clerk, J. W. Post; treasurer, M. T. Cornish; assessor, E. U. Russell; justice, Ira S. Sheppard; constable, Samuel Chilson.

The first real estate assessment of Preston Lake township, then including 116-31, was made in 1869. Those assessed in what is now Boon Lake were: Ithamer Hagen, section 2; George Dye, 4; Ezra Cornell, 6; Charles Barkuloo, 6; A. F. Perkins, 4; W. O. E. Bourne, 7, 8, 17, 18; William E. Merrill, 8, 9; Morris Tyler, 10; G. K. Gilbert, 10; Susan D. Gale, 12, 14, 15; William Fremming, 13; Ira S. Shepard, 28, 33, 34; J. R. Drake, 27; E. U. Russell, 29; H. H. Davis, 34; Olin Gifford, 34; Hattie L. Baker, 34.

The first real estate assessment made in Boon Lake (116-31) as a separate township was in 1871. Those assessed were: E. K. Hitchcock, sections 2, 22; R. P. Johnson, 2; W. P. Allen, 2; Henry Jewett, 4; J. A. Beaver, 6, 29, 30; Charles T. Barkulow, 6, 8; C. H. Pettit, 8, 10, 17, 20, 29; Ezra Cornell, 10; Seth Adams, 10; E. J. Temper, 12; W. O. Horton, 12; D. G. Martin, 12; Daniel Herrington, 13; W. C. Horton, 14, 23; W. S. Horton, 14; W. O. Thompson, 14; R. J. Mendenhall, 14; James Moore, 15; E. S. Fisher, 15; G. W. Fisher, 15; Adam Sheimer, 21; Henry Ritz, Jr., 21; R. H. Rogers, 24; Jacob Ritz, 28; Sarah M. Horton, 32.

The first personal assessment in Boon Lake township, 116-31, was made in 1871. Those assessed were: Henry H. Battkin, Alonzo M. Bell, Charles Bohn, B. G. Brown, Charles Budrius, M. T. Cornish, Hanne Dallmann, Charles Eggert, Fred Eggert, Sr., Fred Eggert, Jr., G. S. Edner, Gottlieb Fredertz, Dan Gliddin, Oliver Gliddin, George R. Green, Ira Gleason, George A. Gifford, John Gotteridge, J. C. Hodgdon, Oscar Hodgdon, Orrin Hodgdon, Christoph Jarson, John Jones, Y. M. Keough, Albert Harquardt, Enock C. Nelson, William S. Pierce, G. D. Potter, Albert W. Potter, William Phare, M. T. Ridout, John Rantmann, Ed. Reindorf, G. D. Staddard, Ira S. Sheppard, Aug. Seefeldt, Horten Schmandt, G. W. Slough, Albert Schultz, John Weseloh.

Orrin Hodgdon was one of the early settlers of Boon Lake township. In regard to his early experiences he says, "In 1871 I took a homestead in township 16, section

18, range 32 and built a frame house 14 by 22. I broke a piece of prairie with four oxen that same year. December 21, 1871, I was married to Louisa Potter and we moved onto my homestead in April, 1872. Ira L. Gleason, M. T. Cornish, James C. Hodgdon, Albert W. Potter and George D. Potter were living in the neighborhood at that time. The grasshoppers came upon us July 5, 1876, nearly destroying the crops and the eggs hatched out in the spring of 1877 destroying the entire crop for that season. But the grasshoppers were hardly any worse than the blizzards and the prairie fires, which rolled unhindered over the prairies and sometimes burned not only crops but also farm buildings. After the grasshopper plague of 1877 and 1878 quite a few settlers moved in. I will mention some of the names of people within a mile or two of us: John Merrill, George Frieze, John Mitchell, Charles Mitchell, Byron Woodard, ——— Palms and John Booth.

"In 1871 school district No. 25 was organized with James Hodgdon, Jonas Post and William Phare as school board and Belle Jewel taught the first public school held in Boon Lake township during the summer of 1870, in one room of a private house. The following spring a shanty roof school house was built, 12 by 16 feet in size, and Louisa Potter (now Mrs. Orrin Hodgdon) taught a four months' school during the summer of 1871. Lucy Pellet, who had just come from Massachusetts and with her father and brother William Pellet settled in Brookfield township, taught the Boon Lake school in the summer of 1872.

"During the year 1873 the school was taught in a large log house known to all old settlers as the old 'Russell house,' a building which had been erected in a very early day. Abbie N. Potter taught this school and the same summer married John H. Tyson, an early settler of the district. They lived together on their homestead for twenty-five years and the district became known as the Tyson district.

"The school of 1874 was taught in the same building by Flora Willson and Julia Graham taught school there during the summer of 1875. In the spring of 1878 a new school building was erected and Katie Washburn taught the school. Some of the pupils of those early schools were: John and Clyde Post, William, Jane and James Phare, Ida, May and Ernest Hodgdon, Ptolia and Alice Jones, Nathan C., George D., Charlotte and Eliza Potter, Minerva, Ida May and Libbie Greene, Emma and Hattie Chapman and Olive Ridout. Some of these have since become prominent citizens, some have moved away, while others have long since gone to the great beyond. On account of the sparse settlements and blizzards no winter schools were held during those early years.

"Religious services were not neglected during those pioneer days and the Methodist Episcopal local ministers came as

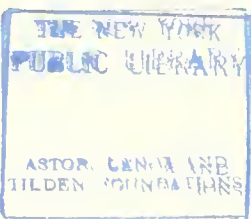
often as possible and meetings and Sunday school were held in the school house and often in the private houses. Those who opened their homes for regular religious worship were: James Hodgdon, Rev. George D. Potter, David Graham and Smith Pierce. Rev. George D. Potter and Rev. Alva Kenedy, both local Methodist preachers, conducted those services. Rev. N. Tainter preached on the circuit in 1875 and 1876, followed by Rev. John McDonald in 1877 and 1878. Rev. Nelson Shafer, a local Methodist preacher, settled here in Boon Lake in 1878 and did much religious work in the community."

John Borden's Reminiscences. James Borden trapped in the vicinity of Bird Island before the Indian Massacre. In 1866 he came again to the county and he and his brother Benjamin trapped here, making their camp in a crude log shack in the timbers of the island from which the township and village of Bird Island derive their names. The vicinity then abounded in mink, otter, muskrat, fox and other fur-bearing animals.

In the fall of 1866, John Borden came from Ft. Wayne, Ind., and on October 27, 1866, saw Renville county for the first time. He was unable to reach Bird Island that night as he had intended, so he wandered about on the prairie and finally decided to sleep. The weather was cold and he was unable to get much rest. But in the morning he found a hay stack and by burning some hay managed to get himself a breakfast, after which, with new courage, he made another attempt to get on to the island. After trying until eleven o'clock in the forenoon to get across the sloughs, he became discouraged and decided that his brothers were not there. He therefore was convinced that he would have to return to Indiana without seeing his brothers. A mile and a half he had gone on his weary return journey, when, meditating on various Bible stories, he thought of the tale of Lot's wife and her great inclination to look back. So like her, though with somewhat different results, he turned about and looked backward. Over the tops of the trees of the island floated the smoke of a camp fire. The brothers had been out attending to their traps and had therefore been away from their camp. Joyfully John Borden went back toward the island and fired his revolver. One of his brothers answered with a shot. But even then it was an hour and a half before one of the brothers ventured to come to the spot where John Borden stood. He had not been recognized, the fear of the Indians was still strong, and the trappers had thought that the man whom they afterward found to be their brother had been brought there as a decoy. After long and watchful waiting, however, one of the brothers came through the reeds and brakes with an old dug-out canoe, his gun in his hand, on the alert and ready to shoot at the least indication of



CHARLES HEIKKA



danger. When the stranger was recognized, the trappers could scarcely believe their eyes, as they did not know that John had come from Indiana. They speedily made him welcome and he spent a week with them in camp. When he left he traded them a watch, valued at \$30, for 200 muskrat skins, valued at 15 cents each. He took these skins on his shoulder to Carver county, and in due time reached St. Paul with them. That winter he returned to Indiana, but the next year located permanently in Minnesota.

He made his home for several years at the old Plato postoffice, three miles from the present village of Plato, in the meantime doing considerable trapping in Renville county and elsewhere.

One year he secured 1,600 muskrat skins, mostly if not all in Renville county. He took these to Willmar and shipped them to St. Paul. The price at Willmar when he shipped them was fifteen cents and he hoped to secure more in St. Paul. But before his furs reached that city the price had dropped two cents. The dealer, however, paid him thirteen and a half cents, so he received \$214.14 for the season's muskrat trapping.

In 1871 John Borden, his brother-in-law, Frank Maddock, and the latter's brother, George Maddock, came to Renville county looking for a suitable place to locate. They stopped at the shack of William Burgess, an eccentric character then living in the heavy timber near Buffalo lake. Burgess, who made much of his living by trapping, did not desire that the wilderness should be settled. He therefore discouraged the three men in every way, his clinching argument being that no railroad would ever be built anywhere near the region. Mr. Borden, however, showed the other two the farm produce around the place as an evidence of the fertility of the soil, and he finally persuaded the men that the township was a desirable place in which to live. Accordingly they went on their way, determined to come back and settle. At Fort Ridgely one of their horses died as the result of having been fed too much corn. The Maddocks settled in Preston Lake township that year. John Borden brought his wife to the township and settled in the northeast quarter of section 20 the following year.

The Borden house was built from an old house which originally stood at Plato postoffice, three miles from the present village of Plato. The home in Preston Lake was on the main traveled road, and the home was noted for its hospitality. One night no less than eighteen guests slept in the little shack.

Mrs. John Borden, who was the daughter of John Burton, of Carver county, has many interesting stories to tell of the Indian Massacre. Before the Massacre, when she was a little girl, an Indian known to the whites as Indian Charlie often visited their

home and professed a great friendship for her father. In August, 1862, Indian Charlie put in his appearance, though it was not his custom to visit the place in the summer. He aroused the suspicions of the people by asking how many white people were at home, how many had gone to the Civil war, how the war was coming on, and how much ammunition there was in the settlement. Naturally the people were somewhat frightened at these inquiries, knowing, as they did, their defenseless position, and also having heard something of the dissatisfaction of the Indians.

Indian Charlie had scarcely departed and the family was eating supper, when a physician from Glencoe came through on horseback, urging everyone to flee, and declaring that the Indians had risen and were only eleven miles away. The family jumped up from the supper table, hitched up their oxen and joined a fleeing throng.

Mrs. Borden says: "We first started for Carver, but when about half way there we met a crowd of people coming from that village. They had been told that the Indians were coming from the direction of St. Paul. So it was decided that we would seek shelter on Waconia island. A few days later we found that there were no hostile Indians in Carver county, so after leaving the island we stayed a while in Carver village and then went back to the farm." For protection the neighbors banded together, all staying together, but going from cabin to cabin. In this way the harvesting in the neighborhood was finished. When the next scare came the following year, Mr. Burton sent his wife and children to Wisconsin, while he stayed with neighbors. When they finally returned they found that no unfriendly Indians had been within eleven miles, but the white refugees had almost wrecked the home. Everything of value had been stolen, and while the family did not object to the fact that those in need had helped themselves, nevertheless that had been a wanton waste which seemed without excuse, such as turning over the bee hives and letting a large keg of maple syrup run to waste. Some of the neighbors had buried some of their possessions, but the Burton family did not have time for this.

BANDON TOWNSHIP.

Bandon township embraces township 113, range 33. It is bounded on the north by Palmyra township, on the east by Wellington township, on the south by Camp township, and on the east by Birch Cooley township.

It has been said that straggling settlers entered Bandon from Birch Cooley as early as 1865. However, no permanent settlers located in that township until late in that decade. The story of the early days in this township is told elsewhere by Nels O. Berge.

Bandon township was organized January

4, 1871, and an election held a few months later at Jeremiah Farrell's house, section 18. The first officers elected were: Supervisors, Timothy Carline (chairman), James Hurley and Jacob Anderson Volen; treasurer, John Reagan; assessor, Jeremiah Farrell; clerk, Jeremiah Desmond; justice of the peace, Timothy Carline. Gunerius Peterson was elected clerk the second year. He did not qualify and was again elected the third year, after which he served some twenty years. Iver Brandjor was also an early officer.

The town hall was erected in May, 1885, in the southeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 16.

The present board is constituted as follows: Supervisors, James C. Cronin (chairman), Gilbert Torgerson and C. P. Sather; clerk, Henry Frickson; treasurer, O. M. Hage; assessor, C. H. Frickson (resigned).

The first real estate assessment of Bandon 113-33, was made in 1874. Those assessed were: Jeremiah Farrell, section 18; Louis Hanson, 32; Syvert Kelly, 30. In 1875 there was added to this list: Anton Hesse, section 8; Dennis Farrell, 20; Jacob Anderson (Volen), 28; Martin Johnson, 28. In 1876 there were added to this list: James Hurley, section 18; Lars Hanson, 18; Nels Hanson, 26; John O'Brien, 20; Iver Jeremiason, 22; Tollef Peterson, 22; Iver Weiklee, 22; John P. Nestande, 23; Peter Olson, 26; Lars Olson, 26; Martin Johansen, 28; Jacob Volen, 28; Iver Brandjor, 32; Peter P. Sather, 34; A. G. Nelson, 34.

The first personal property assessment made in Bandon (township 113, range 33), was in 1871. Those assessed were: John Anderson, John Anderson (two of them given), Ben Anderson, Aug. Anderson, Iver Brangard, John Collins, Tim Carline, Cornelius Desmond, J. Desmond, Con. Desmond, And. Dahlquist, John Erickson, Louis Erickson, Dennis Farrell, A. J. Franklin, J. Farrell, D. S. Green, Lewis Hanson, Nels Hanson, Ole Halvorson, Halvor Halvorson, James Hurley, Daniel Hanlon, Catherine Iago, Michael Iago, Iver Iverson, Ole Johnson, Martin Johnson, J. B. Johnson, Iver Jeremiahson, Elenson Kelly, Ole Knuderson, Michael Kelly, Anthony Kelly, John Kelly, Paul Knudson, And. Lawson, Gabriel Nelson, Patrick Nolan, Jeremiah O'Shea, Lewis Olson, Peter Olson, John Olson, Edwin H. Olson, Karl Olson, John Peterson, Tom Powell, Peter Peterson, Gunerius Peterson, Tolf Peterson, John Reagan, Con. Reagan, Cornelius Ryan, Peter Sotter, Lars Tolfson.

Gunerius Peterson's Reminiscences. In the spring of 1871 my brother (now deceased), Peter Hornseth and I set out from Fillmore county to Renville county with a yoke of oxen which we owned in partnership. In our company were also Ole Knutson, Lars Tollefson, Hans Carlson (all now deceased), all driving oxen. We came to this wild prairie July 16, 1871, and

settled in the wilderness about ten miles from the Minnesota river in Bandon township, which had then just been organized. We chose this location on account of being near timber land. As soon as we were settled the grasshoppers came and stayed with us for four years, destroying everything, and we had to work hard for a subsistence. The first money I borrowed after I had proved up on my eighty I secured at twelve per cent, being obliged to pay in advance and was glad to get it at that. Our nearest markets were New Ulm, Glencoe and Willmar. Beaver Falls was then the county seat but had no railway and only a few stores and a blacksmith shop.

During the first years of our settlement it was a very rare thing to see a span of horses. If we saw a team of horses and buggy coming across the prairie we were sure that it was either a machine agent, a collector or a constable. Many of us were heavily in debt on account of the bad years caused by the devastation of the grasshoppers and rather dreaded to see such visitors.

CAMP TOWNSHIP.

Camp township embraces the greater part of township 112-33. It is bounded on the north by Bandon township, on the east by Cairo township, on the south and southwest by Brown county and the Minnesota river, and on the west by Birch Cooley township.

Camp township was settled before the Massacre. Their story has been told earlier in this work. The first arrivals after the Massacre were Halleck Peterson, John Halvorson and A. J. Anderson. Peterson and Halvorson had been here before the Massacre. The Anderson family located in the northwest quarter of section 18; Halvorson on the southeast quarter of the same section, and Peterson on the southeast quarter of section 20. Gradually other settlers came in. Their story is told elsewhere in this volume by Nels O. Berge.

Camp township was organized April 2, 1867. Henry Graff, Halleck Peterson and John Anderson were appointed judges of the election to be held at the home of Henry Graff. This town having failed to hold an election, Halleck Peterson, on May 21, 1867, was appointed assessor. He also seems to have served in Mud Lake township. In 1904 a town hall was erected in the northwest corner of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 15. The supervisors are: A. J. Anderson (chairman), Henry Rieke and A. E. Larson. The clerk is N. J. Olson.

The first real estate assessment of Camp township (112-33) was made in 1868. Those assessed were: Werner Baesch, sections 22, 27; Henry Graff, 19; Peter Hartman, 28, 33; Thomas Hill, 21, 28; Peter Isackson, 20; Peter Lahti, 20; William R. Laframboise, 22; Peter Nelson, 27; Nels Olson, 22, 23, 33.

By 1871 quite a number of people had

acquired property in Camp (112-33), the real estate assessment that year being as follows: George Hodgdon, section 6; Thos. Tweet, 17; Louis Garstmaner, 12; Elizabeth Graff, 18, 19; Thor L. Rudy, 18; John Halverson, 18; Peter Lahti, 20; Carl Nelson, 20; Magnus Johnson, 20; Hallek Peterson, 20; Andras Schott, 21; Karnes & Koesmo, 21, 28; Ellen Smith, 22; Peter Nelson, 27; William Pless, 27; Sylvester Olson, 22, 27; Ole E. Berge, 22, 23; Andraes Olson, 28; Jens Olson, 28; Daniel O'Neil, 28; Severt Kelley, 28; Hans Peterson, 28, 33; Martha Anderson, 18; Samuel Hodgdon, 34.

The first personal property assessment of Camp township (112-33) was made in 1869. Those assessed were: Louis Anderson, Jacob Anderson, John Anderson, Andres Anderson, Iver Branford, Patrick Campbell, Thomas Daveney, John Galliher, John Ganon, John Gleason, John Gilbertson, Thomas Hill, Lewis Hanson, John Halverson, Mathias Johnson, Ole Johnson, Hans Johnson, Mathias Johnson, Oliver S. Johnson, Patrick Jordan, Henry Knawf, H. Klingenberg, M. O. Lee, Andrew Larenson, Evrek J. Locken, James Maxwell, Bernhard Marchner, Charles Mooney, Anders L. Nas, Peter Nelson, Ole O. Nesberg, Andrew M. Nelson, Sivert Nelson, Harel Nelson, Daniel O'Neil, Gens Oleson, L. Oleson, G. Oleson, Andrew Oleson, Sylvester Olson, Ole Obendale, Hallek Peterson, Ole Peterson, Hans Peterson, Christopher Peterson, Thomas Rudy, Ellen Smith, Andraes Shott, James Smith, John Sampson, Andres Schott, Thomas Tweet, John T. Tweet, John Tweet, Mariah Tesrow, Peter Pericks, Frank Young, John Jens, Ole Ellicksen.

A. J. Anderson's Reminiscences. We came to Renville county the first part of June, 1865, in company with Hallek Peterson and John Halvorson and settled in the Minnesota valley. We planted some corn, built a house of logs with a sod roof and built a stable of logs covered with coarse hay for roofing, for the cattle and sheep which he had brought with us. All the teaming was done by oxen. All the hay was cut with a scythe and the mosquitoes were so troublesome that one had to wear mosquito netting over the face in order to be able to handle the scythe. The first wheat raised was threshed out by the oxen treading around the stack and was then fanned to separate it from the straw.

All of our clothing was home made. Our stockings and mittens were made of homespun yarn and the spinning wheel was kept very busy during the winter months. A tin lamp filled with burning lard furnished light. My father made our shoes and moccasins out of cow hide, using the skin from the leg in such a way that the knees and hocks became the heels of the moccasins, the fur being turned to the outside, and a little hay was put in the bottom, making a fine piece of footgear at

that time. Our trousers were made of grain sacks, cut so that the stripes of the sack were on the outside of the leg. Our furniture was all home made. The food consisted mostly of cornmeal, potatoes, butter, pork, sheep, mutton, some fish and other game.

The cattle had free range over the prairie, but came home of their own accord in the evening and stood near the smudge, which was built to protect them from the mosquitoes.

In 1867 school district No. 1 was organized and our first teacher, Clemens Treatbar, who is still living, taught a term of three months the same year. A board shanty had been rented, which was used as a school house. In 1868 logs were cut and hewn and a school house was built. Sod was used for roofing. In the spring of 1880 a contract for \$800 was given for the building of an up-to-date school house.

CAIRO TOWNSHIP.

Cairo township embraces township 112-22. It is bounded on the north by Wellington township, on the east by Sibley county, on the south by Nicollet county and on the west by Camp township. The C., M. & St. L. crosses the township in the northern part. Fairfax village is in the north-western part.

The first settler was John Buehro, who located on the east side of Mud lake in June, 1859, and was killed by the Indians in 1862. George and Victor Rieke also settled on the banks of Mud lake in 1859, and in 1860 came their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Rieke, and other members of the family. The Riekes found shelter in Fort Ridgely during the Indian outbreak and took part in its heroic defense. As soon as the immediate danger was over they returned to their home and resumed farming.

The story of the Riekes, by Adam Rieke, the story of the Military Reservation and incidents of the early days by Col. Charles Hopkins are related elsewhere in these volumes, while a complete history of the township and its surroundings appears in the reminiscences of Nels O. Berge elsewhere in this work.

The cyclone of 1881 did considerable damage in this town. Joseph Halloway, wife and three children were killed; one of his boys escaped death but had both arms broken. John Finley, a boy aged fourteen, was killed while herding cattle; many of the cattle were killed outright or died from injuries received. In addition to loss of life a large amount of property was destroyed.

A sad event in the history of Cairo was the burning of the two little children of John Liebl, on September 29, 1898. These children, Martin, aged four, and Elizabeth, aged 2, were playing in the barn when the structure caught fire. The father was away at the time. Attention was turned to

saving the house, and the children were not missed. When the father returned he plunged into the flames at the risk of his life. The dead bodies of the children were found in the ruins of the barn.

Cairo township was organized as Mud Lake April 2, 1867. At that time twenty-nine votes were cast and the officers elected were: Supervisors, William Emmick (chairman), August Rieke and J. H. Phelps; clerk, J. H. Phelps; assessor, M. J. Haines; treasurer, George Rieke; justices, R. Barton and Joseph Labarron; constables, S. Turner and H. W. Dodge. The town was called Mud Lake until July 8, 1869, when the name was changed to Cairo. The earliest records of this township have not been preserved. The clerk has the minutes of all the meetings since March 10, 1874. The present officers are: Supervisors, Joseph Julius, Jr. (chairman), Charles Firlie, Nels E. Nelson; treasurer, G. A. Boemmels; clerk, Theo. R. Reinke.

The first real estate assessment of Mud Lake township (112-32), now Cairo, was made in 1868. Those assessed that year were: Baptiste Frenier, section 31; Jane Laframboise, 25; Peter La Belle, 30; Elizabeth Muller, 22; William Mills, 24; Mary Mumford, 31.

By 1871 quite a number of people had acquired property in Cairo township, 112-32 (Mud Lake), the real estate assessment that year being as follows: Edmond O'Hara, section 9; Gardner Tibbitts, 10; Frank Shields, 10; Hanna C. Hains, 10; M. J. Hains, 10; Abram Culver, 14; R. Barton, 20; Elizabeth Muller, 22, 23, 27; J. Laframboise, 25; George Rieke, 26; James B. Harper, 27; Joseph Lebaron, 28; Samuel Marsh, 28; Amos G. Root, 29, 32; Michael Igo, 30, 31; B. H. Randall, 31; Mary Mumford, 31, 32; Frederick V. Ilaas, 32; F. G. Carter, 34, 35; Adam Rieke, 35.

The first personal property assessment of Cairo township (112-32) was made in 1869. Those assessed were: Renseller Barton, Charles Bird, M. M. Burk, Henry Berhns, S. Bengson, William Barnett, N. Christman, John Carson, W. Carver, Abram Culver, F. Dinkemire, James Drake, C. Dieter, Philo T. Dodge, Ralph K. Dodge, Henry Dodge, William Emerick, Torkeld Evenson, H. Evenson, A. R. Gleason, Thomas Greer, L. D. Griffin, Amelia Goodwin, Charles A. Grow, James B. Hupper, H. Hauler, Charles E. Haight, Miranda Haight, M. J. Haines, M. Hopkins, Squire Lamphire, Joseph La Banon, Wilson La Banon, Bradford Lauderback, Samuel Marsh, C. H. Nixon, James O'Hara, Edmond O'Hara, J. W. Palmer, J. H. Phelps, M. W. Phelps, Z. B. Pierce, N. Peterson, Victor Rieke, August Rieke, George Rieke, William Rieke, F. Rieke, Adam Rieke, C. L. Ruggles, L. W. Root, A. G. Root, Nelson S. Read, Datis Rector, H. Reinke, William Root, Will Sell, F. Shields, Samuel Stevens, Gardner Tibbets, Edgar F. Tibbets,

Urial Tibbets, M. Tool, John Tyler, S. Turner, Worthington, Williams,

CROOKS TOWNSHIP.

Crooks township embraces township 116-36. It is bounded on the north by Kandiyohi county, on the east by Winfield township, on the south by Emmet township, and on the west by Ericson township.

John Smith was the first settler in Crooks township. He and his good wife, Maria, came to Crooks township, June 1, 1870, and did not settle here permanently until July 2, 1870, when they filed on the northwest quarter of section 32. At the same time C. G. Bell filed on the southwest quarter, and H. S. Crooks, from whom the town is named, on the southeast quarter of the same section. During the same year Lars Otness filed on the southeast quarter of section 34, and Hans Stromerson on the northwest quarter of the same section. Then came Ed. Bakken, James Madison, Esten Bakken and A. E. Kinney. These were practically all the early settlers of the township. But a few years later the settlers began to come in more rapidly.

The first birth in the town was that of Ellen, a daughter of C. G. and Phoebe Bell, born in the spring of 1872. The first death was in December, 1875, when John Johnson was frozen to death. The first school was taught in the summer of 1874 by Nettie Spicer in a building erected for that purpose on section 30. Religious services were held by the Methodists at private houses as early as 1874.

Crooks township was organized as Aurora township in November, 1884, and an election was held December 9, 1884. In March, 1885, the board was notified by the state auditor that another township in the state had been given the name Aurora, therefore named it Crooks. The first supervisors of Crooks were H. L. Otos (chairman), C. A. Bakken and J. F. Smith. The records of the township have been preserved since March 28, 1885. On that date the supervisors held a meeting and assessed two days' labor on the highways against every adult male, and a road tax of fifty cents against every hundred dollars' worth of real estate and personal property as valued in the assessment rolls of the preceding year. The present officers of the township are: Supervisors, Henry Haen (chairman), P. J. Wigdahl and Gurin Kverness; clerk, E. J. Wilson. Town meetings are held in the school houses.

The first real estate assessment in Crooks township, 116-36, then a part of Emmet, was made in 1874. Those assessed were: John Johnson, section 18; John Gist, 30. In 1875 there was added to this list: Esten Bakken, section 8. In 1878 there were added to this list: A. E. Kenney, section 18; J. J. Pratt, 30; Ambry M. Knight, 2, 6; John B. Sanborn, 7. In 1882, the following names had been added: Charles B. Gordon, section 20; Knight &

Dean, 2, 10; J. A. Latta, 6; Ward & Bruman, 21; James Matheson, 28; Peter Larson, 28; T. O. Larson, 26; Tollof Olson, 26; A. McFarlane, 30; Jacob Olson, 32; John Smith, 32; E. C. Bakken, 28; Jessie Bean, 32; Peter Eberlanderson, 18; John S. Delano, 19, 21; Isaac C. Stearns, 17; Albert Dagen, 24; Claus A. Bakken, 18; Lars S. Ottes, 34; Hans S. Andraa, 34; Martin J. Martinson, 26; F. A. Gorden, 20.

The personal tax list of Crooks for 1915 embraces the following names: George Ahrenholz, Johu Aalderks, C. Aalderks, Dirk Beckman, Gustav Butenhoff, Bert Bruins.

John G. Wordes, one of the leading citizens of the township, settled here in the spring of 1887, and has thus lived in Crooks for nearly thirty years. Mr. Wordes has furnished some interesting information for this history of the county. His reminiscences appear elsewhere. According to Mr. Wordes, the others who came that spring were Henry Blattner, Henry Haen and William Looock.

Those living here at that time were: John Gest, section 32; Peter Ufkes, 31; John F. Smith, 32; Henry Crooks, 32; Jacob O. Dahl, 32; A. E. Kinne, 18; C. A. Bakken, 18; Eston Bakken, 8; James Matson, 28; Samming Carlson, 28; E. C. Bakken, 28; Gustof Herman, 34; Ole Erickson, 26; Martin Peterson, 22; Fred Shaller, 22; Ole Tolfson, 24; G. Welch, 29; L. P. Larson, 28; S. A. Wilcox, 20; F. C. Greene, 20; N. F. Sherman, 20; John O. Colsrud; Hans Stumeson, 34; A. McFarlane, 33; Hotsean Otos, 24; Carl Hennemann, 2; Lars Ottes, 27; Albert Strey, 26; Adolph Zockor, 36. Of these thirty-three families only four are now living in the township: Johu G. Wordes, 29; Gustof Hermann, 34; Martiu Peterson, 22; Albert Strey, 14, all the rest having died or moved to other places.

Those who came later in 1887 were Henry Haen, who later moved to Emmet township; Henry Blattner, William Looock and Lubbert Ahrenholz.

The men who have lived in Crooks township a quarter of a century or more are: Dirk Beekman, F. O. Berg, P. and D. Eikhoff, Gustof Herman, L. M. Johnson, S. P. Larson, Olson & Johnson, John G. Wordes, Martin Peterson and Albert Strey.

John G. Wordes, of Crooks township, has lived in the county some thirty years, and in that time has undergone many interesting experiences. His story is an excellent lesson to the younger generations of what the people endured who helped to make the county. His story is as follows:

I was born in the town of Lima, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin; was reared to agricultural pursuits, and remained on my father's farm until March, 1887. On the twenty-third of that month I married Jane Christian Brummels. On April 6, 1887, she and I arrived in Renville and roomed at the home of Peter Haen until April 11, 1887. Then a Mr. Vanakkeru and a

younger brother of mine arrived at Renville, with a car of horses, machinery and household goods. The next day we moved out on the prairie in a small house known as the Stearn's place. A few days later James Minderhout and Isaac Wolfert, two young men from Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, came and stayed with us for some time.

Then a few days later William Orlebeke and family, also of Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, came and stayed with us until the men could haul out lumber to build a small house and sheds for their horses. The above named Wisconsin people had bought land in Chippewa county, Minnesota, near where Clara City is now situated. When those families moved on their land, I can tell you we commenced to get lonesome. But we soon got acquainted with the neighbors, and I will say right here that I shall never forget what those kind neighbors did for us in time of need. Now, to tell the story, will say the first thought came to me to break the prairie land that I had bought the year previous in section 7, township 116, range 36—160 acres railroad land—at \$9 per acrs. I broke 40 acres in the spring of 1887, sowed 20 acres of it into flax and reaped five bushels per acre. Everything went well until the winter of 1888. January 12 two young men, friends of ours, got lost in a snow storm. One froze to death, the other froze his feet. The worst came on February 4, 1888, when our first baby was born. A blinding blizzard made it impossible for a neighbor or a doctor to come to our assistance, and there was no telephone to call a neighbor. It nearly made my hair stand on end. But thanks to God, everything went well. The years 1887 and 1888 were rather poor crop years and low prices, and the severe winter made us somewhat discouraged and all the earthly possession we had. I had made one small payment on my land. One team of horses and harness and wagon and a few pieces of furniture was all we had.

The first two years we were so poor that we could not buy wood or coal. So we were obliged to burn hay and flax straw to cook and keep warm with. We tried to sell out, but could not get a buyer, even at the price we had paid for our land. Then in the fall of 1888 my father came to see us. He found us well, but discouraged. After telling father of our plans of selling out and going back to Wisconsin, father said: "Son, my advice to you is this: Stick it out a few years and everything will turn out right." And father's advice came in time, and did turn out well. So my advice to any young man that starts in a new country—stick out a few years and everything will turn out well. In the year 1892 I bought 80 acres joining mine at \$11 per acre. And in 1892 sold my 240 acres at \$20 per acre and also sold my personal property for a good price. After

paying all our debts we had a nice little sum to our name.

In the spring of 1893 we decided to see our old home and friends in Wisconsin. On June 5, 1893, myself and family left for Wisconsin, thinking to locate there, and while there also took in the World's Fair at Chicago, Ill. We also looked at some land in Wisconsin and Illinois. After taking prices of land into consideration in those states, I saw that I could do better in Minnesota, so in August of 1893, we returned to the town of Crooks and bought the northwest quarter of section 29 at \$29 per acre, the same quarter where we still live.

In 1908 I bought the southwest quarter of section 20 at \$48.59 per acre, so now I have a farm of 320 acres, which I would not trade for any farm of similar size in Wisconsin or Illinois.

ERICSON TOWNSHIP.

Ericson township embraces township 116, range 37. It is bounded on the north by Chippewa county, on the east by Crooks township, on the south by Sacred Heart township and on the west by Wang township.

The first settler in Ericson township was James H. Wilson, who came in about 1870 and erected a cabin on section 8. He lived alone and was at his cabin for a short period only. He left soon after the influx of 1871. In the days of the early settlement large game was not plentiful in the prairie region of Renville county, but it is related that a certain large moose often came to Mr. Wilson's haystack.

In 1871 Ericson received many settlers, all of whom arrived within a few days of each other, about June, and rapidly filled the township. Peter P. Dustrud, who is still living in Sacred Heart, was one of these. A short time ago Mr. Dustrud prepared a list of this colony, which is as follows: Peter P. Dustrud, wife and mother (Dorothea Sanderson), section 28. Ole S. Lanning, wife and one son, section 28. Martin Jacobson, wife and two children, section 22. Johannes Siverson Lanning, single, section 28. Mr. Lanning is still on the farm where he originally settled. Halvor Skonberg, wife and three children, section 32. Skonberg had been a tailor at St. Peter. He worked at that trade here for the early settlers and then went to Minnesota Falls. Ole Gilbertson Knestang, single, section 26. Anders Gilbertson Knestang, wife and three children, section 26. Gabriel Osmundson, wife and three children, section 26. His father and mother settled in the same section. Eberhart Louasen, wife and two children, section 34. Ole Berget Skomager, wife and one child, section 34. Ole was a cobbler and took his name from his occupation. Olaf Kortgaarden, wife and three children, section 34. Johannes Wee (Wood) and wife, section 22. Johannes Hanson, wife and three

children, section 26. His original home was on the present site of the school house. Simon Christenson Engen, wife and one child, section 30. Hans Hanson Roli, wife and three children, section 22. Ella Olson, a widow with one son, Iver, section 20. Peter Christianson Engen, single, section 30. Paul Killi and wife, section 20; John Trostal and wife and four children, section 20. Ole Hanson Tunde, an old soldier and single, section 32. Peter (Galbrandson) Fieldhammer, wife and three children, section 32. Mr. Fieldhammer is the only one of the early settlers who is still actively operating his farm. Lars Hanson, wife and family, section 19. An interesting story is told of Mr. Hanson's adventure with a deer. This deer lingered about the place in the fall and did considerable damage to the hay stacks. One day the dog chased it out onto the ice and Mr. Hanson followed it. After a terrific battle the deer escaped.

All these people came as already noted in May, 1871. A few people came that fall, among whom may be mentioned Peter Gerde and Ole Helgeson. Early in the spring of 1872 came Peter O. Doseth and family, now living in Sacred Heart.

Others who arrived at about the same time as these earliest pioneers are: Ole Wolstad, Hans Rosaasen, Carl Gerde, Fingert Hoff and Iver Olson.

Among other early settlers may be mentioned: Ole O. Reiten, Jorgen Voldeng, Ole H. Agre, Tosten Walstach, A. A. Skjefte, S. S. Lanning, C. H. Rolie, Ole K. Holien, Emil E. Erickson, O. H. Docken, John P. Lien, Hans H. Sagness, Hans S. Lanning, Lars Milsten, I. C. Barnaal, Ole C. Stavig, Berger Ingebretson, Christ Evenson and Per Kolberg.

When the township was organized the whole town constituted one school district. The first school was taught in 1874, at Iver Walstad's house, by Mary Bovee. Peter P. Dustrud drove to Beaver Falls and persuaded her to take charge of the school. All the books used the first term were books which Mr. Dustrud had owned as a boy. In 1875 a school house was built on the Dustrud farm. Mr. Dustrud and others going to Willmar after the boards which were used in putting up a shack, which did service as school house and church.

The township was named in honor of Eric Ericson, prominent pioneer of Renville county, who served in the early days as county auditor and was for many years county superintendent of schools. It was he who drew up the petitions for the organization of the township and school district. These petitions were circulated by Peter P. Dustrud and by him and others presented to the county commissioners. The name of Ericson was suggested and the citizens consented.

There are two churches in Ericson, the Dutch Reformed and the synod church of

the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical faith.

Ericson township at one time had a post-office bearing its name. It was kept by Frederick Walstad at his mother's home, in section 32. He also kept a small stock of goods.

The first marriage was that of Lars H. Milsten and Ingebor Hanson in 1875. The Norwegian Lutherans began holding meetings as early as 1873. The first death was that of Emma H. Walstad, in 1873. The first cemetery was on the farm of Peter P. Dustrud and a number of bodies are still interred there.

Ericson township was organized January 27, 1874. The following officers were elected: Supervisors, Henry Paulson (chairman and constable), Peter Gerde and E. H. Walstad; clerk and justice, Henry Paulson; treasurer, assessor and constable, Peter P. Dustrud. This meeting was held in the dugout of Peter P. Dustrud in section 28. A heavy storm was raging and only about seven men were present. There is a town hall in the center of the township.

The first personal property assessment in Ericson township, 116-37, was made in 1874. Those assessed were: Ragnild Alertson, Ole H. Agre, Ole H. Berg, Peter Christianson, Simon Christianson, Peter P. Dustrud, Peter O. Dosseth, Eli Erickson, Christian Evenson, Ole Gilbertson, Peter Gilbertson, Carl O. Gerde, Peter O. Gerde, Anders Gilbertson, Hans Hanson, Ole Johnson, Martin Jacobson, Anders Kneisting, Paul Killi, Olof C. Kortgaarden, Franz Fagerlie, Ole S. Lanning, Hans Larson Pernille Larson, E. P. Louasen, Lars H. Milsten, Ole Olson, Gabriel Osmundson, Iver Olson, Henry Paulson, S. Peterson, Magloire Robideaux, Osmund Rierson, Johannes Severson, Hans H. Sagnes, Halvor Skjonberg, Iver Thompson, Johan Traastal, Ole H. Tande, John Breli.

The first real estate assessment in Ericson (116-37) was made in 1874. Those assessed were: Hans S. Sagnes, section 18; Paul Killi, 20; John Thompson, 22; Marthea Dustrud, 28; Anton Olson, 28; Hans Larson, 30; Peter Hanson, 32 (a note made gives Peter Hanson's property as having been transferred to Peter Lundberg). In 1877 there were added to this list: James H. Wilson, section 8; M. Robideaux, 24; P. Gerde, 28; Hans Hanson, 30; Ole Hendrickson, 32; Jorgen P. Flagstad, 32. In 1878 there was added to this list: Halvor Hanson, 30.

The first child born in Ericson was Carl, the son of Halvor Gundberg, in the summer of 1871. Bernt Siverson, the son of Ole Siverson Lanning, was the second. These children were baptized at the home of Peter Erickson in section 24.

Peter P. Dustrud's Reminiscences. "In the spring of 1872, I took a load of people from the town of Ericson to the home of the aged Hans Roli, on the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 8.

The home was a log house, which had been erected but not finished. The members of the party I took to this meeting place were Marthea Dustrud, my wife and our baby, Severin Julius Dustrud; Mrs. Martin Jacobson and her daughter, Maria Jacobson; Mrs. Halvor Ogaarden and her daughter, Berthe Ogaarden; Mrs. Ole Syverson Lanning, with her son, and Mrs. Andrew Knestand, whom we took along as a witness. Religious services were held, for this was on a Sunday, by the Rev. John Bergh. This is the first time that I ever met the reverend gentleman. There were so many children to be baptized that Pastor Bergh himself had to be one of the witnesses for our son. Bernt Larson and his wife were the others.

"I shall never forget that trip. The company of women and children filled my wagon box. The ground was still moist and the wheels often sunk deep in the earth. It was slow going. The men had to stay at home and take care of the fields to see that the cattle did not get into the crops. No fences had been built and when the crops were growing it required constant care to prevent the cattle destroying them."

In the fall of 1871 Mr. Dustrud had an interesting experience with a prairie fire. Early one morning he started for the mill at New London with grain for Ole Siverson Lanning, intending, on the way back, to purchase supplies at Willmar. When he was some ten miles from home a great prairie fire swept toward him, coming from the northwest and sweeping toward the southeast. The fire had started near Breckenridge and at a rate of sixty miles an hour had swept toward Benson and then to the Minnesota river, even in places jumping that river. Mr. Dustrud had only a few seconds in which to act. He started a back fire and by leading the plunging and frightened horses into the very flames of this back fire he managed to save them and the wagon. His whiskers and eyebrows were singed and he was nearly strangled with the smoke and flames. But he kept on and reached New London at 11 o'clock at night. There he found men who had been waiting three or four days to get their wheat ground. When the kind hearted miller learned the distance Mr. Dustrud had come he took pity on him and agreed to grind the wheat at once. So after midnight, with his flour, Mr. Dustrud started toward Willmar and camped five miles from the village he had just left. Early in the morning he continued on his way, and at about 8 o'clock reached Willmar, where he purchased some lumber, salt and provisions. He did not get started for home until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The prairies had been burned as far as the eye could reach and all evidences of the trail had been obliterated. So Mr. Dustrud was not able to reach a hotel at which he had planned to stop, just over the line in

Kandiyohi county, and was forced to again camp on the blackened prairie. The next day he reached the home of Ole Siverson Lanning and heard the story of how the neighborhood had fared during his absence.

Mr. Lanning was away from home when the fire came and Mrs. Lanning was alone. She started toward the Dustrud home and nearly perished on the way before she was helped into the cabin by Mrs. Martin Jacobson, Mrs. Dustrud and Mrs. Dustrud's mother, Mrs. Dorthea Sanderson. In order to provide against fire, Mr. Dustrud had plowed two large circles around his home, and had several times burned off the grass between the two circles, thus leaving a protected area of some ten acres about his home. The cattle for miles around sought refuge in this circle, and when Mr. Dustrud got home all the cattle in his neighborhood were grazing on his place.

EMMET TOWNSHIP

Emmet township embraces township 115, range 36. It is bounded on the north by Crooks, on the east by Troy, on the south by Flora and on the west by Sacred Heart. It is crossed by the C. M. & St. Paul Ry. It has one city, Renville, located in the northwestern part.

Emmet township was first settled in 1869. In 1868 Sylvester Brooks, and son, Nelson W. Brooks, from River Falls, Wis., came to the vicinity of Sacred Heart creek, and after living with Samuel Bernell for a while, erected a cabin of their own. In the same neighborhood there was living a German named Holstein. Mr. Brooks was joined in June, 1869, by his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Dodge, and their two children, who took up their homes with Mr. Holstein. With them came Loren A. Brooks and H. E. Wadsworth. Dodge, Brooks and Wadsworth had all lived at River Falls, Wis., and all were veterans of the Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. After taking their claims, Wadsworth and Brooks in section 32, Emmet and Dodge in section 30, in the same township. Wadsworth and Brooks returned to Wisconsin, while Dodge continued to live with his family in Sacred Heart township.

The first permanent settler was William Powers, who arrived in the latter part of June, 1869. At that time no one was living in the township. The story of the Powers settlement is a most interesting one. William Powers, James Daly and John Warner had been friends in Pennsylvania, where Daly and Warner were born and where Powers had come from Ireland as a young man. From Pennsylvania all three men had come to Blue Earth county in this state.

In June, 1869, William Powers and his family, and James Daly, started overland for Renville county. With their wagon as their headquarters they camped on the northeast quarter of section 32, in Emmet township, while Powers and Daly drew

logs from the Minnesota river bottoms and erected a cabin.

After the cabin was completed and the Powers family comfortably located, Daly went back to Blue Earth county after his own family and John Warner and family. Daly located on the northwest quarter of section 28, and Warner on the southwest quarter of section 22. These three families were the only people who spent the winter of 1869-70 in Emmet township.

In April, 1870, Wadsworth and Brooks brought their families from Wisconsin, and Dodge came up from Sacred Heart with his family, and all three families located on their claims.

The next group of settlers to arrive were the members of the David Benson party. David Benson and James Jacobson were college mates in Norway. Among their friends were Espen Hanson and Ole Quamsoe. In the spring of 1870 they set out from Dodge county, Minnesota, for Renville county. Benson and Hanson brought their families, the other two were single men. All took land in section 6 and moved into a cabin which had been erected for the Hanson family.

Benson, Quamsoe and Jacobson then went to Mankato on foot and from there to Rochester, where they worked in the harvest fields. In November, Benson came back to Emmet, leaving Quamsoe and Jacobson at Rochester. When he reached Emmet he found that his family had left the Espen Hanson cabin and were living with Peter Johnson, who had brought his family to Emmet late in the summer and put up a shack on section 4.

John G. Lee and family, and Ole Hanson and Ole Simonson, arrived at the home of Haakon Andraa in Sacred Heart, June 24, 1870. A son, Gunder J. Lee, with Hanson and Simonson, looked about for land, and finally selected a site in section 4, on the banks of what was afterward known as Lee Lake, which has since been drained. A cabin was erected and there the Lee family spent the Winter, while the young men returned to Wisconsin. They too, later located in Emmet township.

Carl Carlson and family settled in section 4, in the fall of 1870.

Others who came in 1870 were Patrick Coulahan, Timothy Muldowney, Timothy Daly, Charles Pickthorn and Cornelius Crowley. Coulahan and Muldowney settled on section 28. Crowley settled in section 32. All brought their families except Daly, who took up his residence with his brother.

Joseph Brammick came to Emmet township in 1870, but it was not until two years later that he settled here.

Among the other early settlers may be mentioned Wesley Wiley, Hoppley Tibbitts, Howard Tibbitts, Julius Myer, Bartel Brummer, Julius Brummer, Charles McElrath and Hans Ness.

The first death in the township was that

of a child of Peter Johnson. In choosing a place for the burial of this child, Johnson selected the site for the present Renville Union cemetery, now known as the Fairview cemetery. "The living," said Mr. Johnson, as he stood on the swell of land overlooking the ideal spot where the dead now sleep, "can always choose a desirable location so for the dead who cannot choose we should give our best." He therefore wrote to Land Commissioner Skinner of the railroad company, and as a result the railroad deeded five acres to be held in trust forever for those who await the Judgment.

The first child born in the township was William, a son of James and Eliza Daley, born February 20, 1870. The first adult to die was Christian Nacke, who was frozen to death January 7, 1873. His dead body was found near section 14.

The first school was taught in the winter of 1870-71 by Charles Peneman in the home of L. A. Brooks. In 1871-72 Mr. Peneman taught in the home of Charles Elrath. The schoolhouse was erected on the present site in 1875. The district is known as district 37.

The early history of district 33 is well worth recording. In 1873 the school board was organized with David Benson as director, John Cole as treasurer and Howard Tibbetts as clerk. At the very beginning there was a serious contention as to who should be the first teacher for the three months' school which they planned to hold. Treasurer Cole had promised John Larkin, who lived on the Minnesota river, in Flora township, that his daughter, Daisy, should be the teacher provided that Director Benson and Clerk Tibbetts would consent. A meeting was called, and the honorable board was informed by Clerk Tibbetts that he had corresponded with a young lady in Wisconsin and had engaged her as the teacher. After some highly impolite language between Cole and Tibbetts, the meeting adjourned at about 3 o'clock in the morning.

Cole then called on Benson and told him that if the Wisconsin lady were engaged Larkin would sue the district. "Tell Larkin," said Mr. Benson, "that if he will behave himself and stop this foolish talk about suing the district, that his girl will get the school, for you and I make a majority." So Miss Larkin became the first teacher in the district and Tibbetts and the Wisconsin lady were left to nurse their wrath. The first school was held in the corn crib of Wen, Werden.

Emmet township was organized September 7, 1870, and the first election held September 21, 1870, and the following officers elected: Supervisors, Loren A. Brooks (chairman), John Warner and William Powers; clerk, Patrick Coulahan; treasurer, H. E. Wadsworth; justices, William Powers and L. A. Brooks; constables, C. Pickthorn and James Daley. William

Powers was moderator of the meeting, H. E. Wadsworth was clerk, while John Warner and L. A. Brooks were judges of election. Each of the candidates received twelve votes except L. A. Brooks, who for justice of the peace received eleven votes. The present officers are: Supervisors, A. F. Bratsch (chairman), Fred Kramin and Henry Gens; clerk, Louis Grunert; treasurer, Gust. Stern; assessor, John Gens. The township elections are held in the city of Renville.

Emmet was named from Robert Emmet, the Irish patriot. The petition for this name was fathered by William Powers, and the name was chosen in spite of the fact that H. E. Wadsworth wished the town named in honor of his wife.

The first personal property assessment made in Emmet township was made in 1871. Those assessed were: George Bennison, L. A. Brooks, Barthold Brummer, Patrick Coulahan, G. L. Dodge, James Daly, Timothy Daly, B. McElrath, Thomas Foster, Julius Meyer,* Timothy Muldavney, Chas. Pickthorn, Wm. Powers, John Smith, Alfred Symes, H. E. Wadsworth, John Warner, Wesley Wiley.

The first real estate assessment of Emmet township, 115-36, was made in 1874. Those assessed were: George Ott, section 30; Everett Wadsworth, section 32; Loren A. Brooks, section 32; B. McElrath, section 32; G. L. Dodge, section 30; Wm. Powers, section 32; Cornelius Crowley, section 28 (note to effect that this was transferred to Gotfried Grabow); James Daly, section 28; John Warner, section 22; Howard Tibbetts, section 18; Peter Paqueth, section 20; L. D. Worden, section 18; John Johnson, section 18 (116-36), now Crooks; John Gist, section 30; J. W. Lowery, section 24 (note to effect that this was transferred to John Brettin).

FLORA TOWNSHIP.

(By Crystal I. C. Shoemaker.)

Flora township embraces the greater part of Congressional township 114, range 36, and a fraction part of township 113-36. It is bounded on the north by Emmet township, on the east by Henryville and Beaver Falls townships, on the southwest by the Minnesota river, and on the west by Sacred Heart township. Across the river is Redwood county. It is included in the reservation strip which remained in the possession of the Indians until 1858, shortly after which the settlement of the bottom lands in the township was started.

The soil is black sandy loam with clay subsoil and is very fertile. The northern portion consists of rolling prairie, while the southern portion consists of the beautiful Minnesota Valley and a range of hills or bluffs extending back of the river from one-fourth of a mile to one mile in width. The river and creeks are bounded by natural forests. At present there are no villages in the township. The settlements

are composed almost entirely of German people.

There are three churches. The German Evangelical church is situated in section 35, township 114, range 36. A new edifice was built in 1911 at a cost of \$8,000. The German Lutheran church is located in section 27, township 114, range 36. This church accommodates a large congregation. And the German Methodist Episcopal church, located in section 22, township 114, range 36. This church at one time accommodated a flourishing congregation, but at present it has a very small one and the church is not used to any extent. All three churches have well kept cemeteries in connection. There is also a Catholic cemetery situated in section 5, township 114, range 36, but there is no church in connection.

There are five large public schools. School district No. 8 is located in section 35; school district No. 18 is located in section 20; school district No. 22 is located in section 14; school district No. 80 is located in section 11; and school district No. 97 is located in section 8.

The first settler in Flora township was Charles Patterson, a trader from the north of Ireland, who about 1783 established a trading post at the rapids in section 29, at the bend of the river. On all the early maps this locality appears as Patterson's Rapids. It is now known as the Falls, and is a widely-favored picnic spot. It was from the hat worn by Patterson that Sacred Heart is believed to have received its name.

In 1859, a number of white people settled upon unsurveyed territory in this township. Their story is told elsewhere. These people experienced the terrible Indian massacre of August 18, 1862, and only a few survived. Among them may be mentioned Gottlieb Mannweiler, Louis Thiele, John Lettow, John and Michael Boelter, Gottlieb Buce, John Kochendorfer, John Schwandt, William Schmidt, — Rossler, — Lummis, and their families.

In 1865, Francis Shoemaker, in company with four or five others from LeSueur county, took claims in the town of Flora. Mr. Shoemaker being the only one of the company who settled on his claim in section 1, township 113, range 36, moving here with his family in January, 1866. John Schlueter and F. M. Shoemaker were members of this family and the only members now residing in Flora.

Late in November, 1865, James Gaffney, moving westward, settled for the winter in an old log house on the banks of the Sacred Heart creek. The next spring they located in section 3, township 113, range 36, this farm now being owned by Edmund F. Gaffney.

John Schlueter, F. M. Shoemaker and Edmund F. Gaffney are the three oldest settlers in the township, often being referred to as the three Patriarchs of Flora.

In April, 1866, Louis Thiele moved his family back to this township on section 12, township 113, range 36, he being the only one of the former settlers who returned to reside in his old home. In the spring of 1866 John Smith settled in section 2. Two years later he moved to section 12.

In October, 1866, Henry Dreyer and family moved into the town and settled on section 35-114-36.

In the summer of 1867 several other families moved in, among them being Henry Timms on section 33, Albert Nichols, section 34; Christian Sperber, section 34; John Schafer, section 1; James Stewart, section 19; R. W. Davis, section 19; Samuel Brown, section 18; Philip Williams, section 18; Conrad Becker, section 18.

The following year (1868), Ancen Bradburn on section 2, Bartlett Quigley on section 34, William Sperber on section 34, Christian Schafer on section 28, Joseph Fischer on section 28, Louis Schafer on section 28, Leopold Wohlman on section 28, John Miller on section 28, Peter Binger on section 20, Simon Burch on section 19, John Larkin, Sr., on section 18, Griffith Williams on section 28, Harry Thompson on section 19, John and Charles Beckendorf on section 19, Carl Kordt on section 22, Charles Heinikie on section 22, Herman Hackman on section 22, Fred Steinkamp on section 22, Thaddeus Hathway on section 22, August Uhlig on section 22, Theo. Shoening on section 23, John Arndt on section 24, Joseph Arndt on section 24, James Christie on section 26, N. S. Satterlie on section 26, H. S. Braly on section 26, and Jacob Fitz on section 26.

The township was organized in 1867. The election being held in the house of James Gaffney, that venerable gentleman's cap serving as a ballot box. The judges of election were James Gaffney, James Graves and H. Ames. The first officers elected were Henry Dreyer (chairman), John Schafer and Henry Timms, supervisors; Francis Shoemaker, clerk and justice of the peace; Louis Thiele, constable. No other officers qualified. The town was named Flora, deriving its name from the first horse brought here after the massacre by Francis Shoemaker.

The present officers are: William Johnson (chairman), Herman Breittkreutz and F. M. Shoemaker, supervisors; Gust. A. Schafer, clerk; Bernhardt Binger, treasurer. For fifteen years there has been no constable or justice of the peace.

F. M. Shoemaker tells an interesting story of how he learned, as the slang phrase is, how "not to butt in." The first wheat crop raised in the town was scattered about on the different farms and the threshing proposition presented many difficulties. Finally Judge Henry Ahrens and Diedrich Wichmann consented to thresh the grain, providing it should be brought to one place. Francis Shoemaker's place was centrally located. To this place Henry

Dreyer hauled his grain, and Louis Thiele was also to bring in his. F. M. Shoemaker was then about ten years old. He was sent to help Mr. Thiele. The snow being deep, they several times upset the load, and at each accident Mr. Thiele in disgust would exclaim: "If I had a match I would burn it." About the third time, young Shoemaker, innocently, after a diligent search in his clothes, found a match and offered it to the erratic Mr. Thiele, whereupon the youngster was seized by the nape of the neck and given a severe spanking with a fork handle wielded by the indignant man.

Mr. Shoemaker tells another story of early days. In 1867, still a young lad, he started out on the back of the horse, "Flora," from which the township received its name, with the purpose of going to New Ulm to get a plow-share sharpened. He stopped a while at Fort Ridgely, and there the kind-hearted military blacksmith offered to do the work for him, so the boy reached home the same day instead of having to make a two-day trip.

The first real estate assessment of Flora township (113-36 and 114-36) was made in 1868. Those assessed that year were: (113-36) John Blair, section 11; Catherine Folkel, 2; John A. Haack, 13; Charles Klemmer, 2, 3; Bernhard Kenzel, 11, 12; Jacob Krell, 4; Robert Nicholson, 4; James O'Neil, 4; Adam Puffer, 1, 12; Wenzel Swoboda, 4; John Swoboda, 4; Carl Simon-det, 13; Henry Smith, 2; John Shafer, 1; Louis Thiele, 4; Ulrich Van Walt, 3; Conrad Becker, 18; Simon Burch, 19; Henry Dreyer, 35; Wm. H. Ingalls, 22; John Larkin, 7, 18; Christian Shafer and C. Detloff, 23; Fred Stoltz, 35; Norman Satterlee, 33; Abner Tibbets, 18.

First personal property assessment of Flora township (113-36 and 114-36) was made in 1869. Those assessed were: John Ahrens, Joachim Ahrens, John Beckendorf, Chas. Beckendorf, Peter Binger, S. Burch, David Brown, Henry Braley, Andrew Braudon, F. M. Crawford, R. W. Davis, M. Dunningan, Henry Dreyer, Henry Engeman, Jacob Fritz, John H. Frieke, Henry Frieke, James Gaffney, Chas. Heineck, Christ Heineck, Herman Hackman, Henry Kuck, John Larkin, Bert Nichols, James O'Brien, John O'Brien, Bartlett Quigley, James Stewart, John Smitz, John Shafer, Francis Shoemaker, N. S. Satterlee, Christian Sperber, Wm. Sperber, Fred Strukman, Henry Shafer, Frederick Schmidt, Louis Shafer, Christian Shafer, Henry Timms, E. T. Tillotson, G. S. Williams, Philip Williams, Hannah Williams.

On August 18, 1915, a monument was erected on section 33 in memory of the Schwandt family, who were killed by the Indians on August 18, 1862. This monument was erected by the state and is the only monument of the kind of Flora. Following is the inscription on the monument: "Erected by the State of Minnesota, 1915.

In Memory of Martyrs for Civilization, Johan Schwandt, Christina Schwandt, and their children, Frederick and Christena; John Walz, Karolina Schwandt Walz; John Frass; Murdered by Sioux Indians, Aug. 18, 1862."

Vicksburg village in section 19, was one of the earliest villages in the township, and for a time was quite important. William T. Baade located there in the fall of 1870, and much of the village lore is associated with his name. He was born in Brandenburg, Germany, February 15, 1841, and after coming to this country lived for a while in Winona, this state, before locating at Vicksburg. He moved from Vicksburg to Renville after the railroad came through. Peter Pacquett, also called Peter Perqueth, but better known as Peter Peck, had a blacksmith shop at Vicksburg. He moved it nearer to Renville, about half way between the sites of the two villages. Muller Hummel kept a wagon shop at Vicksburg. He moved his shop to Beaver Falls. George A. Reed operated a saw-mill. This he continued.

Robert W. Davis lived south of Vicksburg and operated the ferry where the bridge is now located. North of the village at the top of the hill was the Disciples of Christ church, the cemetery, and the public school.

The village of Vicksburg was first assessed in 1871. Those owning lots there at that time were: George A. Read, J. D. Levi, Peter Perqueth, Wm. T. Baade, Muller Hummel, John Tramm. In 1874, the following were added: Frank Bowman, Wm. C. Worden. — Earl. The village of Vicksburg disappeared from the assessment books after 1877.

At one time there was a store and creamery at Florita.

HAWK CREEK TOWNSHIP.

(Edited by John Bakke.)

Hawk Creek township embraces the greater part of township 115, range 38, and a fractional part of township 114, range 38. It is bounded on the north by Wang township, on the east by Sacred Heart township, on the southwest by the Minnesota river, and on the west by Yellow Medicine and Chippewa counties. It is crossed by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad.

The first settlement of Hawk Creek, like that of the other Minnesota river townships in this county, is somewhat shrouded in mystery. With the establishment of the Sioux Indians at the Upper and Lower agencies, a number of Frenchmen and French half breeds settled on the north bank of the Minnesota. Among the Frenchmen who located in what is now Hawk Creek township were Magloire Robideaux, Louis La Belle and Alexander Guertin. It was probably about 1859, the year after the land north of the Minnesota was relinquished by the Indians, that these

men settled here. Louis Robert, pronounced and sometimes spelled Louie Robaire, an early steamboat captain, and the man from whom Roberts street in St. Paul is named, is believed to have had owned a store on the west bank of Hawk Creek near the mouth, some time before the massacre. He had an important store at the Yellow Medicine agency, usually called the Upper agency, and the post on Hawk Creek was probably merely a temporary branch. After the massacre Mr. Robert established a store on the west bank of Hawk Creek in section 28, near the place where Magloire Robideaux lived after the massacre. This store, operated by various clerks, was kept open well into the seventies and then discontinued. It is also said that in his extended wanderings, Joseph Schaffer stopped in Hawk Creek in 1861 long enough to select a piece of land to which he returned after the massacre.

Louis La Belle before the massacre lived near the mouth of Hawk creek. Not far away was the ford across the Minnesota on one of the trails between the Upper Agency and Fort Ridgely. Several of the escapes from the Upper agency during the massacre were made across this ferry and past La Belle's house, through what is now the southern part of Hawk Creek township.

After the massacre, possibly in 1865, the French and half breed settlers began to return to Hawk Creek. Magloire Robideaux settled on section 28. Peter Castine, known to the early settlers as "Big Peter," settled in section 35. Antoine Young settled in section 28. Louis G. Brisbois settled in section 35. David Carpenter and Francis Stay settled in section 1.

After the close of the Civil war, probably late in 1865 or early in 1866, Joseph Schaffer, Louis Kope and Joseph Marsch came together and settled here, Schaffer on section 16, Kope on section 20, and Marsch on sections 21, 22 and 27.

Joseph Schaffer was a notable pioneer. He traveled extensively in various parts of the United States, served four years in the Home Guards, and was wounded in battle, the bullet entering his back and being taken out of his right side. In 1862 he enlisted in the Fourth Ohio Battery and served until 1865, after which he located in Hawk Creek. He was married November 14, 1868, to Julia Muttu, daughter of Halvor Halvorsen Muttu, who had arrived that spring. The ceremony was performed at Yellow Medicine. This was the earliest marriage in Hawk Creek.

Early in 1866, Frederick W. Brasch settled in section 8. He and the three mentioned are said to have been the only persons, with the exception of the Frenchmen, then living in Hawk Creek township. On June 21, 1866, when the Thor Helgeson party arrived and settled in Sacred Heart, Paul Peterson settled over the line in section 1, Hawk Creek.

A number of settlers came in 1867. Isaac S. Earl settled in section 20; Joseph Meyer in section 17. A number of people settled in the Hawk Creek valley in Wang township, and with them came Christina Olson, who settled in section 5, Hawk Creek township. Christina Olson sold her claim to Torger Olson Skrukud in 1868, and died shortly afterward. Henry Wilson also settled in section 5. The Hanson family, consisting of the father, Hans Hanson, and a number of adult sons, including Hans, Olaus and Thorwald arrived. The father, and the son Hans, settled just over the line in Chippewa county, Olaus settled in section 19, Hawk Creek; and Thorwald in section 18, Hawk Creek.

Some time before the spring of 1868, Halsten H. Ottos settled in section 22; Ole H. Ottos in section 35; and Jesse Wynn in section 8.

In 1868 there was quite an influx of new settlers. Those who are believed to have arrived that year are: Haaken Olson Agre, section 10; Karinus P. Agre, section 10; Martinus O. Agre, section 4; Simon Johnson, section 4; Tollef Johnson, section 4; Knute T. Rude, section 20; Peter Erickson, section 24; Torger Olson Skrukud, section 5; Ole P. Sheggeby, section 26; Ole Holton, section 35; Ole Evanson Limbo, section 22; Halvor Halvorsen Muttu, section 22; Hans Hanson Sagness, section 22; Ole Fugleskjel, section 10; Kettle O. Bergen, section 26; Halvor Helgeson Goli, section 24; Helge H. Goli, section 24; Peter Erickson, section 24; Mons Anderson, section 14; Anders Johnson (father of Carl Anderson), section 26; Ole H. Skalbeck, section 24; Peter Simonson Kolebekken, section 8; Anders Johan Petterson, section 6; Anders Sandstrom, section 6.

Numbered among these is quite a colony that came from Freeborn county in the spring of 1868. The colony consisted of Halvor Helgeson Goli, wife and child, section 24; Peter Erickson (a brother of Mrs. Halvor Helgeson Goli), wife and family, section 24; Halvor Halvorsen Muttu and family, section 22; Hans Sagness and family, section 22; Mons Anderson and wife, section 14; Peter G. Goli came with this colony but settled over the line in Sacred Heart township.

The poll list of April 6, 1869, gives the names of all the voters then living in Hawk Creek. It also includes the voters that lived in Wang.

The list is as follows: Henry Wilson, section 5; Magloire Robideaux, section 28; Theodore Rongerud (32, Wang township); Louis Kope, section 20; Joseph Schaffer, section 16; Knute T. Rude, section 20; Peter Simonson (Kolbakken?); Peter Erickson, section 24; Mons Anderson, section 14; Halvor Helgeson Goli, section 24; Theodore Behnert, section 20; Peter Jansen, section 6 or 26; Halvor Halvorsen (Muttu?), Hans Gunderson (28, Wang township); Joseph Marsch, sections 21, 22 and

27; Hans Olson Grotvet (32, Wang township); Christian Ingebretson (33, Wang township); Hans Hanson (over the line in Chippewa county); Christian O. Narvestad (21 and 28, Wang township); Thorwald Hanson, section 18; Nels Olson (Ellefson?), section 8; Ole Hanson (Skalbeck?), (Possibly this should be Olaus Hanson, section 19); Hans Thorson, sections 18 and 19; H. H. Ottos, section 22; Ole H. Ottos, section 35; Paul Peterson, section 1; F. W. Brasch, section 8; Isaac S. Earl, section 20; Peter Castine, section 35; Jesse Wynn, section 8; G. R. Mulford, section 8.

In 1869 and 1870, the land in Hawk Creek township was well taken. Those who arrived about this time were: Nels Johnson Bakke, section 10; Andrew Anderson Tolander, section 26; John Christopherson (Big John), section 14; Lars Hendrickson, section 2; Hendrick Anderson, section 2; Ole Hendrickson, section 2; Olof Erickson Kringsberg, section 2; Hendrik Erickson (father to Ole Hendrickson), section 2; Anders G. Rude, section 2; Christian Frederikson, section 18; Nels Anderson Thorstad, section 10; Peder J. Myra, section 1; Halvor Gregerson, section 15; Ole Aslakken Odegaard, section 25; Johanna Hanson Listerud, section 22; Hans C. Listerud, section 22; Erik Synnes, section 4; Engebret Hanson Dokken, section 8; Nels Olson Ellefson, section 8; Ole Gerhartsen Røsaasen, section 12; Gustav Olson Røsaasen, section 12; M. Ekbohm, section 12; Andrew G. Hanson, section 12; Arndt Johan Arntzen, section 12; H. H. Skogberg, section 10; Paul Gulbrandson Berg, section 10; Berndt Hoganson, section 24; Hendrik Eliasson, section 24; Andrew Carlssen, section 12; Andrew Hendrikson Tomti, section 12; Halvor Hendrikson Tomti, section 12; Carl Johnson, section 6; Adolph Jacobson, section 14; John Lof, section 14; Magnus Anderson, section 6; Carl Janson, section 6; John Ringberg, section 14; Elias M. Lindquist, section 6; Jonas Peterson, section 6; John Roste, section 13; Andrew Anderson Wigland (moved next year to Sacred Heart); Paul G. Berg, section 10; Ole Oppegaard and mother, section 24; Bertha Olson Johnson (widow of Anders Johnson, mother of Carl Anderson), section 26; Lars Johnson, section 14; Elias Erickson, section 14; — Bockman, section 20, a single man who died in the early days; J. Goddard, section 20.

Some of these people came in groups and some came singly. One of the largest groups came in June, 1869, from Olmsted county, with oxen, goods and cows, crossing the Minnesota at New Ulm. In this group were: P. C. Brevig, wife and one child, section 4; Benjamin Nelson Bjorra, section 4; Christian Bjorra, wife and two children, section 4; Hans Berg, single, section 4; Christopher Anderson Setra, wife and one child, section 6; Iver Mattson,

single, section 6; Edward Mattson, single, section 6; Erick Synnes, single, section 4; Nels M. Lien, wife and children, over the line in Chippewa county.

Hawk Creek was organized April 2, 1867. It then embraced everything that is now in Renville county west of the range line between sections 36 and 37. Isaac Earl and Peder Pederson were appointed judges of the election which was to be held at the home of G. P. Greene. The meeting was not held and G. P. Greene was appointed assessor. Land to the west not now in the county was attached to Hawk Creek, July 17, 1868, and the following officers appointed by the county board: Supervisors, C. C. O'Brien, William T. Dugn and Thomas Olson Kolien; assessor, Ole O. Enesvedt; clerk, G. P. Greene. There is no record that any town meetings were held until 1869. On March 22 of that year, Darwin S. Hall as county auditor issued a call for all voters of the county living in range 38, to hold an election on Tuesday, April 6, 1869. The order to call the meeting commanded by the commissioners March 9, and obeyed by Mr. Hall on March 11, as well as Mr. Hall's call for the meeting dated March 22, are still on record in the township books, having been copied by the town clerk, G. B. Mulford, on July 5, 1872. The meeting was held as ordered on April 6, 1869, at the home of Henry Wilson. That there had been some previous organization is shown by the notation in the minutes: "The meeting was called to order by J. S. Earl, the town clerk." On motion of Jesse Wynn, Henry Wilson was chosen moderator. Magloire Robideaux was appointed assistant clerk and Theodore Rongerud and Jesse Wynn judges of election. It was ordered that the next election be held at the home of Joseph Schaffer (spelled in the records Shaffers). The officers elected for 1869-70 were: Supervisors, Louis Kope (chairman), Theodore Rongerud and Peter Erickson; clerk, J. S. Earl; assistant clerk, Paul Peterson; treasurer, Lonis Kope; justices of the peace, T. W. Brasch and J. S. Earl; constables, Jesse Wynn and Lonis Brisbois. In 1906 a town hall was erected in section 14. The present officers are: Supervisors, John Bakke (chairman), Julius C. Hanson and H. H. Eliason; treasurer, S. O. Odegard; assessor, Olaf Fagerlie; clerk, E. O. Oppegaard; justice of the peace, E. O. Oppegaard; constable, H. W. Golie.

The first services in the western part of Renville county were held at the home of Peter Simonson Kolbakken in section 8, Hawk Creek township. The Rev. Nels Ulvesaker presided. Later services were held in the home of Christian Ingebretson, in Wang township. Still later services were held at the home of P. C. Brevig. When the log schoolhouse was built on the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 4, services were held there until the church was erected. Mrs. Eliza

Mulford, the wife of G. R. Mulford, had taught school in a private house before the schoolhouse was erected. After the schoolhouse was erected T. Simpson Nordgaard taught school there. Near the schoolhouse a cemetery was started. At that time it was planned to some time build a church in the same locality. But later the cemetery was abandoned and most of the bodies have been removed. The schoolhouse and cemetery were located on the land of P. C. Brevig.

Hawk Creek postoffice, also called for a time Jeanetville, was established about 1869 by J. S. Earl. Later postmasters were G. B. Mulford and F. W. Brasch. The last postmaster was Ole Fugleskjel, who kept it at his place in section 10 until it was discontinued.

The old line kiln was an important feature of Hawk Creek life in the early days. It was located near the center of section 35, about half a mile below the mouth of Hawk Creek.

An important school district in the town is that of district 41. The first officers were: Director, Ole Hendrikson; clerk, Haagen O. Agre; treasurer, Ole Fugleskjel. The first teacher was Nellie Enestvedt. The present officers are: Chairman, John Bakke; clerk, C. O. Anderson; treasurer, C. A. Jacobson.

The first real estate assessment of Hawk Creek township, 114-38 and 115-38, was made in 1869. Those assessed were: (114-38) Peter A. Oslie, section 1; John Hough, section 1; David Carpenter, section 1 (note to effect that this was transferred to Geo. Carey and F. Girard). (115-38) Olson Haagen, section 21; Magloire Robideaux, sections 27, 28; Peter Castine, section 28; Anton Young, section 28.

By 1871, quite a number of people had acquired property in Hawk Creek, 114-38 and 115-38, the real estate assessment that year being as follows: (114-38) Lillie LaCroix, section 2; Louis G. Brisbois, section 2; Hendrick Peterson, section 2; Helgar Hanson, section 2; Ole Oleson, section 2; H. Hendrickson, section 2; Ole Hendrickson, section 2; Ole H. Skallbakken, section 2; Halvor Christianson, section 2; Martin Larson, section 2. (115-38) Lillie LaCroix, section 35; Louis G. Brisbois, section 35; Louis Roberts, sections 27, 28; Frank Girard, section 28; Peter Castine, section 28; M. Robideaux, sections 27, 28; H. Hendrickson, section 27; H. Erickson, section 27; Holston H. Ottos, section 27; Ole Hendrickson, section 27; Haagen Olsen, section 21; Ole H. Ottos, sections 34, 35.

The first personal property assessment of Hawk Creek township (115-38) was made in 1869. Those assessed were: Mons Anderson, Andrew Anderson, George Bachman, Louis Brisbois, W. F. Brasch, Thor Christoferson, Peter Castine, Isaac S. Earl, Peter Erikson, Hans Grotvet, Hans Gun-

derson, Bernt Hagenson, Halvor Helgeson, Hans Hanson, O. Hanson, Thorval Hanson, Ole Hendrickson, Ole Holtan, Simon Johnson, Tollef Johnson, Nels Johnson, Christian Ingebreton, Louis Kope, Joseph Marsch, Joseph Meyer, Halvor H. Mutta, H. H. Ottos, Kettel Olson, Christian Olson, Martinus Olson, Karenus Olson, Ole H. Ottos, Christin Olsen, Paul Peterson, Knud T. Rude, Theodore Rongerud, Magloire Robideaux, Louis Roberts, Joseph Schaffer, Peter Simonson, Amos F. Stone, O. P. Shedgeby, Andres Tollander, Hans Thorson, Jesse Wynn, Henry Wilson.

Spring Farm, with its stretches of fertile lands and forests, its blooded stock, abundant crops, wild game, and natural beauties is one of the notable places of the county. The farm was purchased by Edward O'Connor in 1893, and was the original Joseph Schaffer claim in section 16, Hawk Creek.

Soon after Mr. O'Connor acquired the farm, he decided to find the true spring, being convinced that the place which the previous occupants had used as the spring was in fact merely a place where the water seeped from the impregnated soil. Consequently he had his men start excavations. After they had dug for a while they were successful in their quest, for there came a sudden gush of water which carried everything before it, washing out a considerable area of boggy ground. In this boggy earth were found complete skeletons of buffaloes and deer, many antlers, and vast quantities of fossils, as well as petrified frogs, snakes, turtles, leaves, twigs and the like. The find was of such importance that Dr. Birke of the University of Minnesota came to the place to investigate. He could find no reason for the petrifications. He expressed the opinion, however, that the place had been a buffalo wallow, and that the skeletons were of buffaloes and deer which had been mired in the wallow and were unable to make their exit.

The water of Geyser Spring, from which the farm takes its name, is sold for medicinal purposes throughout the United States and also in many foreign countries. The water is bottled and marketed by the Myrrhuesse Co., Ltd., of New York, Chicago and St. Paul.

After the spring was cleared out it still exhibited many interesting characteristics. One of these peculiarities was its intermittent flow. For many years it flowed eleven minutes and stopped one minute, then flowed another eleven minutes and rested a minute, continuously and without variation. But since the reservoir was put in and the water piped it no longer shows this remarkable quality.

The water now furnishes a sixty-five pound pressure. From this pressure is secured power to run the cream separator, the washing machine, the pump which

pumps the soft water into the cistern, and the gas plant which manufactures gas for light and fuel. The water is also piped through the grounds, the house and the barns.

On the farm is a curious Indian mound which has never been scientifically explored which presents a rich field of inquiry to the archaeological investigator. It is located in section 16, and occupies about a quarter of an acre. It is evidently a dome, some ten feet high, about one foot thick, its composition being of cobble stones of various sizes, with a cement-like substance which holds them together, thus forming a half sphere. Several loads of the stone have been removed, but nearly all the formation remains untouched.

The farm consists of three divisions. Wallace P. O'Connor occupies a bungalow near the spring. William E. O'Connor and H. L. Tufte occupy the other two divisions. Each division makes a specialty of full blooded stock, one being given over to Shorthorns, one to Holsteins and one to Herefords. A specialty is also made of Red and Poland China swine. Often as many as 1,000 bronze turkeys are raised, presenting a truly noble sight as the great birds wander about with stately tread. The orchards are large and produce some of the best fruit in the county.

The forests are especially attractive. Along Hawk creek for half a mile a retaining wall has been constructed, thus giving the farm the appearance of some old country estate. Mr. O'Connor is a lover of nature, and has imported wild ducks, wild turkeys, Chinese pheasants, wild Canadian geese, black squirrels, wild deer and other birds and animals, while the native animals such as raccoon, gray and red squirrels, foxes and rabbits have flourished and multiplied.

John Bakke, the vice president of the Old Settlers association from the Fifth district, has taken more than usual interest in the preservation of the story of the early days in the western part of the country. His own experiences as a boy were typical of pioneer boyhood throughout the Northwest. John Bakke was but five years old when his parents decided to make the great venture into an unknown land there to seek amid new surroundings to secure a competence for themselves and their families. Nels J. Bakke, Ole Holton and Ole P. Sheggeby and their families all came on the same ship. John Bakke still remembers the pride he took in his new red jacket and the wonderment that stirred him at the strange sights that met his eyes on the voyage and after landing in the new country. He recalls clearly the two years his family spent in Clayton county, Iowa, and the trip to St. Peter, the wait there while his father went out to look for land, and his wonderment at the

steamboat, which took them up the Minnesota river. On the way he heard stories of the Indian massacre and passed places where the passengers said people had been killed, but he was assured by his mother that the danger was over and that never again in this county would the Indians be dangerous. The little village of Beaver Falls interested him greatly, and at last he was off for the future home of the family in Hawk Creek township.

During the first summer the family lived in a cabin owned by Ole Evanson Limbo. There were no doors or windows, the spaces between the logs had not been chinked up, and the cabin offered little protection from the elements. The father was away a good deal of the time working for the pioneers along the bottoms or constructing a dugout on his eighty-acre homestead in section 10. The family purchased a cow, and this was kept at the claim of Ole P. Sheggeby, a mile away, and the mother walked every morning and night to the place to milk the cow and thus secure milk for herself and children. She also planted a small garden.

The Limbo shack was on the old government road, and there was an almost continuous string of pioneers passing the house. The neighborhood was fast filling up and many pioneers were settling still further west.

A great annoyance then and for many years thereafter were the mosquitoes which swarmed everywhere. It was impossible to keep them from the cabin, and one could not sit down in front of the cabin in the afternoon without being immediately covered with the unpleasant insects. The mosquitoes were especially annoying to the baby.

In the fall the family moved into the dugout on the homestead in section 10. There they spent the winter. This dugout was little more than a hole in the earth, finished on the inside to a certain extent with boards though at first there was no floor except the hard earth. Steps from the level of the prairie led down to the door, a rude contrivance made of boards. There was but one room, and most of the furniture was home made. The children slept in a little bed which in the daytime was slid out of the way under the bed where the parents slept. When the school-masters, in boarding around at the different homes, reached the Bakke home, they slept with John in the little bed.

The clothes worn by the children were warm but primitive. The homespun goods brought from the old country lasted a long time and were made over and over until there was no wear left in them. Outer clothes were for the most part made of blue jeans purchased at the Robert store at the mouth of Hawk creek.

The Bakke family purchased a pig from G. P. Green and a sheep from Thor Helge.

son, both in Sacred Heart township. The mother sheared the sheep, carded the wool, and knit warm socks and mittens.

John Bakke attended school in a log schoolhouse in section 10, district 41. The first teacher was Nellie Enestvedt, now Mrs. P. O. Kittlesland. Sometimes he attended the school in district 42, on the Brevig farm. The first teacher here was T. Simpson Norgaard. Another early teacher was Christian Hegge, an old soldier who had been a professor in Christiania, Norway, and who was a scholarly man versed in many languages.

As the years passed conditions gradually improved. The father built up the dugout with logs so that it was in reality a log house. Next a frame house was erected, the lumber being hauled from Willmar with oxen 40 miles away. In the meantime suitable barns and outbuildings had been constructed.

John Bakke tells with especial relish his experience during the great storm of 1873, when so many perished in Renville county. Some of the pioneers had no facilities on their place for watering their stock and it was the duty of the boys in the families to drive the cattle to a spring some distance from the Bakke home. On the day of the big storm, the weather being warm and mild, John Bakke, and his boyhood friend, Ole Berg, the son of Paul Berg, a neighbor, started for the spring with their cattle. They reached the spring and started back. When they were about a mile from home the wind suddenly changed to the northwest and a terrific blizzard held them in its grasp. The boys were nearly blinded, they could not see the trail, and the cattle were almost unmanageable. But the fathers of the youngsters met them on the trail, and by the hardest kind of work the two men and the two boys managed to get the cattle to safety. Other neighbors who had cattle at the spring were not so fortunate. The cattle got astray, some were killed by the cold, and a few wandered down the creek to Joseph Schaffer's where they were cared for until the storm had passed. The little dugout was covered with the drifting snow. On this and other occasions the snow often drifted above the top of the door, so that when the family started to leave the dugout in the morning they would find their way blocked by a solid bank of snow.

For several years the family used oxen with which to break the land and do their farm work. In the early days, Nels Johnson Bakke, Paul Berg, Nels Thorstad and Ole Fugleskjel bought a Buckeye machine which was a combined mower and reaper. They took turns using this machine on their farms and took turns supplying oxen to draw it. It was John Bakke's duty to drive the oxen. The machine gathered the wheat into bunches which the men who followed bound into bundles by hand. Nels Thorstad had a pair of black oxen which

were especially unmanageable. They continually got into the grain and were almost beyond the control of the boy driving them. John Bakke remembers to this day the spectacle he must have presented, crying bitterly as he tried to do his best with the vexatious animals.

Mr. Bakke also remembers the grasshopper ravages. One day when they were the worst they were so thick that people out of doors had to cover their face with their hands to keep their flesh from being beaten to a pulp by the swarming insects. About Hawk Creek the farmers attempted to drive them away by burning straw, but this had little effect. The last year of the ravages, when the new brood left after eating up everything that was green, their flight darkened the sun like some great cloud.

As a boy Mr. Bakke often fished in Hawk creek. At that time the fish were plentiful, especially pickerel and buffalo fish. One day John Bakke with the Deason and Thorstad boys went fishing in the creek and caught so many that they had to throw some away, the weight being more than they could carry home.

The nearest market place during the early days was at Willmar, forty miles away. Mr. Bakke often accompanied his father to that place, and when he was no more than twelve years old he made trips there, driving the oxen alone in company with neighbors and bringing back goods for the household.

Prairie fires often swept the country. Hay stacks were burned down, and sometimes a cabin would be destroyed in spite of efforts made to check the progress of the flames.

HECTOR TOWNSHIP.

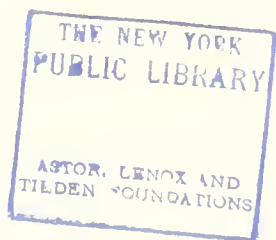
Hector township embraces Congressional township 115, range 32. It is bounded on the north by Brookfield township, on the east by Preston Lake township, on the south by Martinsburg township, and the west by Melville township. The C., M. & St. P. crosses it in the southern part and the village of Hector is within its borders.

The first settler in Hector township was John E. Lewis, who secured land in section 2 in 1872. The next settlers came in the spring of 1873. They were W. H. Graham, J. J. Clark and Allen Parks, and they likewise settled on section 2. About this time a Mrs. Perry located on section 12. A little later in the year came John Baker. He also settled in section 2. Julia Graham and G. W. Calwell settled in section 4. T. S. Benson and F. U. Baker settled in section 10. O. H. Baker settled in section 14.

During this and the two following years quite a few settlers came in. George W. Leasman, now proprietor of the Twin Hill and Willomine farms, gives some of their names as follows: Samuel Lightly, section 6; James Tarbert, section 6; John W. Ka-



AUGUST WIEHR AND FAMILY



niff, section 8; A. W. Bemis, section 10; — Redman, section 12; David W. Toplif, section 14; Case Rail, section 18; Kjell Olson, section 18; Samuel Hatton, section 18; Frank A. Green, section 20; Frank Green, section 20; Albert Green, section 20; Rudolph Green, section 20; August Mahn, section 20; Charles H. Leasman, section 20; M. B. Foster, section 26; Riley Foster, section 26; Peter Prelwitz, section 26; August Prelwitz, section 28; J. B. Perkins, section 30; John Perkins, section 30; Frank Marsh, section 30; J. C. Edson, section 34; Reuben Nightingale, section 8. George W. Leasman himself settled in section 22 in 1874. To this list might be added James G. Torbert and Charles A. Hamisch.

Among the men who have lived for many years in Hector may be mentioned E. L. Colby, W. E. Kemp, Charles Wenz, Thomas Toole and Henry Mihm. Among the early settlers whose names have been furnished by these gentlemen are John H. Blomendale, T. F. Miller, Fred Myres, Philip Kirchner, William Wolff, Dar. Fink, George Raitz, Gust. Wolff, William Ebert, John Dolan, P. O'Donnel, William Dalton, and Gustaf Schmalz.

John Baker was the first postmaster. He arrived July 1, 1873, with his wife and their four children, O. H., F. U., S. D. and Tsis R. Baker. He was appointed postmaster and kept the office at his home in section 2. The mail route from Glencoe to Beaver Falls served this office. When Hector village was started, Mr. Baker resigned, and W. D. Griffith became postmaster in the new village.

Hector township was created April 7, 1874 as Milford, July 29, 1874 the name was changed to Hector, a town in New York, from which many of the settlers had come. The reason for the change was that another town in the state had already been named Milford. The first town meeting was held June 30, 1874, at the home of James Cummings, and the following officers were elected: Supervisors, W. H. Graham (chairman), J. N. Chase and G. W. Calwell; clerk, J. J. Clark; assessor, William Perkins; treasurer, James Cummings; justices, John Baker and J. B. Perkins; constables, N. C. Rale and Allen Parks. The present officers are: Supervisors, W. E. Kemp (chairman), G. C. Henke, A. E. Jung; clerk, C. M. Vance; treasurer, P. E. Poole; justices of the peace, C. H. Reuber and G. W. Leasman; constable, Charles F. Torbert; assessor, George Torbert. The town hall, a 16 by 32, one-story structure of concrete blocks, was erected in the village of Hector in 1914.

The first real estate assessment of Hector township, 115-32, then a part of Preston Lake, was made in 1872. Those assessed were: John E. Lewis, section 2. In 1876, there were added to this list: I. Kourse, section 2; Spencer H. Stearns, section 2; Morris B. Foster, section 26;

J. B. Perkins, section 30; James Borden, section 2. (This piece was transferred to William P. Furlong.) In 1878, there were added to this list: Augustus Brandt, section 30; J. S. Rowley, section 32; James C. Edson, section 34. By 1880, quite a number had acquired property in Hector township. Those assessed that year were: Spencer H. Stearns, section 2; Wm. Furlong, section 2; John Baker, section 2; S. D. Baker, section 1; Wm. Kemp, section 3; Chas. E. Kemp, section 3; N. C. Little, section 4; Samuel Kline, section 4; Allen Parks, section 2; Reuben Nightingale, section 8; F. W. Baker, section 10; Riley Foster, section 14; S. G. Rathbone, section 16; Oscar H. Baker, section 14; Mary Nedre, section 17; Gustav Wolff, section 19; J. R. Butler, section 20; J. B. Perkins, sections 19, 30; Wm. Ebert, section 21; L. C. Russell, section 24; Mons Munson, section 24; Chas. H. Seivers, section 24; Peter Prelwitz, section 26; M. B. Foster, sections 26, 35; Wm. F. Hurt, section 28; E. A. Griffith, section 28; F. T. Miller, section 29; Fred Meyers, section 29; August Brandt, section 30; Henry Memp, section 31; Dennis Navins, section 31; Patrick O'Donnell, section 31; Julian R. Rowley, section 32; J. C. Edson, sections 33, 34; N. J. Blemendahl, section 34; P. Foster, section 35; Catherine Smith, section 36; M. Hally, section 36; Daniel Connelly, section 36.

The first personal property assessment in Hector township, 115-32, was made in 1876. Those assessed were: James Borden, O. H. Baker, T. S. Benson, F. W. Baker, John Baker, Geo. Brown, H. A. Bloomingdale, James Cummings, Lawrence Doyle, J. C. Edson, Riley Foster, W. H. Graham, Albert Greene, Frank Greene, E. E. Greene, Julia Graham, G. R. Hall, C. T. Hall, Joseph Harris, J. C. Halten, S. W. Halten, S. S. Kline, George Leasman, Charles Leasman, H. McDowell, K. Oleson, Peter Prelwitz, Allen Parks, J. B. Perkins, W. S. Perkins, J. E. Perkins, August Prelwitz, W. C. Russell, N. C. Rale, D. W. Toplif, James Torbit, A. Lee, August Mahns.

Geo. W. Leasman's Reminiscences. About the middle of May, 1872, our family, consisting of my father, brother, two sisters and myself, left Randolph, Wisconsin, and set out for the west. We traveled in prairie schooners or covered wagons, on the side of which was printed "Dakota or Bust." Headed for Bismark, N. D., we trailed along by way of Portage and La Crosse, Wisconsin, Spring Valley, Rochester, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and St. Cloud, Minnesota. At St. Cloud we camped for a day to rest our horses and to take stock of our cash, and found to our sorrow that we had but little funds and that Dakota was out of the question. Father and I decided to go south from St. Cloud and go to Glencoe, Minnesota, where we could work on the H. & D. railroad, which was being built to Glencoe, Minnesota. We

arrived at Glencoe June 20, 1872. We worked on the railroad about a month. When the grading was nearly completed, father heard, late one afternoon, that the contractor was going to "pull stakes" and leave early the next morning without paying his men, so father hustled to Glencoe that evening and secured a writ of attachment on him. The next morning at daylight we received our pay. The rest of the men received nothing as the laws were that they could not serve papers out of the county, the county line being only two miles from camp. We then traded one team of horses for twenty acres of standing wheat and two cows and the privilege of living in a log cabin on the northwest shore of Lake Moon in McLeod county. The following spring we rented a farm in the town of Collins, McLeod county, Minnesota, from a homesteader by the name of David W. Toplif. In the spring of 1874, on May 29, my father, Charles H. Leasman, David W. Toplif and I, filed on claims in township 115, range 32 W, in Renville county, now the town of Hector. Father located on the northern half of section 24, Mr. Toplif on the northwestern quarter of section 14, and I on the southwestern quarter and the western half of the northwestern quarter of section 22. The first settlers came in the spring and summer of 1873. They were: W. H. Graham, James Cummings, T. S. Benson, John Baker and three sons.

June 7, 1874, I built a claim shack, six by eight feet, and commenced breaking on a tree claim. This was a very hard task as the mosquitoes were very annoying. A smudge of green hay had to be kept burning all night to keep them off. This job lasted for ten days.

During the winter of 1874 and 1875 I went to the woods around Silver Lake, about twenty-eight miles from my claim, and got logs enough to build a house 18 by 26 feet. That same winter my father and I took two loads of wheat to Minneapolis, eighty miles away, and hauled back shingles and siding enough to shingle and side the house, which was built in 1875. That fall father bought a threshing machine, and I earned enough to keep the wolf from our door.

During the grasshopper times of 1874-7 we had a hard time. The first three years left us enough for seed and bread. The fourth year resulted in no crop whatever. The grasshoppers ate the fields as bare as a traveled road. We tried to catch them in hopper dosers in coal tar, but with poor result. In October, 1875, we had a terrible prairie fire. We came near losing everything we owned. Fire breaks were of no use against the rolling fire. We lost four stacks of grain and several stacks of hay. Many of the neighbors lost grain and hay and one lost stables, grain and hay and nearly everything he had.

In January of the following winter we

had a blizzard that came up very suddenly. In five minutes we could not see the stables. The morning had been very fine and mild. My mother had gone to the neighbors. Fearing she might have started for home I hitched up a team and started after her. By this time I could hardly see my team. I arrived at the neighbor's home all right, but had to face the storm going home. I could barely see the track which led me to within thirty rods of our stable. Father was in the stable waiting for my return and hallooing at the top of his voice. By following the sound of his voice I reached home safely. I do not think I could have found my way if I had not had father to halloo at intervals until he got an answer from me. We had many of these blizzards.

In 1877 I went to the harvest fields of southern Minnesota. After harvest I moved my threshing machine to Chaska, Minnesota, and earned enough to buy seed, feed and provisions to start over again. In the spring of 1878 I started for myself. I had the old threshing machine, with \$450 due on it, and four three-year-old steers. I traded the steers for three head of horses with William Heckes, a horse trader, and he took a time note for the balance. I was very successful with the old threshing machine. In the fall of 1880 I bought a steam threshing outfit and did well the first year. The second year was very wet and I did not make enough to meet expenses. In 1882 I became sick and lost both the engine and the homestead, being compelled to turn them over to the engine company for notes held against me. All that I now possessed was the tree claim. These and many other hardships were experienced by me during the pioneer days of the seventies and eighties. It is forty-one years since I built my claim shack on the bleak prairie in Renville county. At that time I could stand on the top of my shack and see nothing but blue sky and green grass as far as my sight could reach. Today I have standing around my home on this bleak spot trees that measure thirty inches in diameter.

HENRYVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Henryville township embraces township 114-35. It is bounded on the north by Troy township, on the east by Norfolk township, on the south by Beaver Falls township, and on the west by Flora township. The hamlet of Bechyn is included within its boundaries and is located in the southwestern part.

The first settler in Henryville township was Patrick Barkey. He came in the spring of 1866 by ox team, bringing his large family and settling on the northwest quarter of section 27. One of his sons, Thomas H., secured a claim in the northwest quarter of section 34, while another, James, secured a claim in the southwest quarter of section 22. Other families soon

came in. Among them may be mentioned Robert, George and John Nicholson; James, Stephen and John O'Neil; Michael and James Holden; Owen and Michael Heany; John Swoboda and Jacob Krell; Lawrence Boda, Dr. Henry Schoregge, Michael Goblirsch, Thomas Moore, Frank M. Carlson, Carl Holtz, Thomas G. Kelley, F. S. Kinney, Joseph Sharp and Joseph Kartax.

In 1869, township 114, range 35, now Henryville, was assessed as a part of Beaver township. Only two assessments were made in this township, Jacob Krell and John Swoboda, both in section 28. In 1870 there were added to this list: Almeda Hodgdon, section 34; James S. Chapman, section 34; J. B. Renville, section 35; James Butler, section 35. In 1871 this township was assessed as Henryville. The name added this year was: Thos. Barkey, section 34.

The first personal property assessment in Henryville was made in 1871. Those assessed were, Joseph Anderson, Anders Anderson, Thos. Barkey, Lawrence Body, A. H. Babcock, Patrick Barkey, Frank M. Carlson, E. Comstock, M. Fardin, Anthony Farrell, Michael Goblirsch, Anthony Garritty, Carl Holtz, James Holden, Michael Holden, Owen Heany, Michael Heany, Albert Johnson, Joseph Kartack, Jacob Krell, F. S. Kinney, Dennis Morse, Joseph Moore, Laben Moore, Patrick Morgan, Gus McClure, Thos. Nimits, Robert Nicholson, Geo. Nicholson, John O'Neil, Wm. O'Neil, Chas. O'Neil, Patrick O'Neil, James O'Neil, Sr., James O'Neil, Jr., Lars Pearsons, Henry Seely, John Swoboda, Henry Schoregge, Joseph Sharp, Charles Swoboda, David Smith, Albert Scharbona, Joseph Scharbona, M. Tailor.

By 1874, quite a number of people had acquired property in Henryville, the real estate assessment that year being as follows: John J. Schoregge, section 2; Frank Zetah, section 16; John Nicholson, sections 23, 27; James O'Neil, sections 26, 27; John O'Neil, section 26; Robert Nicholson, section 27; Patrick Barkey, section 27; Jacob Krell, section 28; John Swoboda, section 28; John Krell, section 28; David E. Smith, section 30; F. S. Kinney, section 30 (transferred to Julius Runge); Henry Seely, section 32; Austin H. Babcock, section 18; Wenzel Swoboda, section 32; Joseph Kartak, section 32; Frederika Thiele, section 33 (transferred to John Shaffer); Thomas Barkey, section 34; R. R. Corey, section 34; M. D. Hall, section 34; J. S. Chapman, section 34; J. B. Renville, section 35; James Butler, section 35; David R. Culver, section 22.

Henryville took its name from Peter Henry, one of the best known of the pioneer settlers, who died a few years ago in St. Paul, where he spent the last few years of his life. Thomas Henry Barkey, son of T. H. Barkey, was the first child born in the town, June 16, 1868. Many

claim that from him the town was named. Henryville postoffice was established in the house of Dr. Henry Schoregge, postmaster, in 1879. The first religious services were held by the Catholics in 1869 and in 1880 a church was built with 35 families.

Henryville township was organized March 16, 1871, and the first election held March 28, 1871, at the home of Robert Nicholson. The following officers were chosen: Supervisors, John Swoboda (chairman), James Holden and F. M. Carlson; clerk and assessor, T. H. Barkey; treasurer, L. G. Moore; justices, Joseph Sharp and James Greeley; constables, Henry Seely and David Smith; overseers of roads, James Holden and F. M. Carlson. The present officers are: Supervisors, Charles W. Chroup (chairman), Frank Trochil and Fred W. Kugelin; clerk, Lloyd Trochil. The town meetings are held at the village of Bechyn.

KINGMAN TOWNSHIP.

Kingman township embraces township 116-34. It is bounded on the north by Kandiyohi county, on the east by Osceola township, on the south by Bird Island township, and on the west by Winfield township.

The first claim in this township was filed by C. H. Pettit August 2, 1866, section 25. In 1869 F. D. Hunt filed on section 2; George B. Wright on sections 6, 8, 14 and 26, and Dudley K. Johnson on section 22. The first school was taught by Clara Stearns in L. W. Stearns' house, during the winter of 1878-79. The first birth was W. M., a son of David and Anna Coons, born July 12, 1878. The first death was that of J. H. Sangmylir, who died May 19, 1881, aged ninety-six years, eleven months and twenty-four days.

Kingman township was organized September 3, 1878, and an election ordered to be held at the home of H. W. Jones, section 20, September 24, 1878. The officers elected were as follows: Supervisors, A. P. Altman (chairman), E. Fouch and D. Coons; clerk, S. T. Salter; assessor, L. W. Stearns; treasurer, H. W. Jones; justices, L. W. Stearns and John Pfeiffer; constables, D. Coons and I. B. Porter. Altman, Fouch and Coons for supervisors, and L. W. Stearns for justice each received seven votes. The other candidates each received six votes. S. T. Salter called the meeting to order. L. W. Stearns was chosen as temporary moderator and S. T. Salter as temporary clerk. The polls were kept open through the day. The judges of election were H. W. Jones, A. P. Altman and John Pfeiffer. The present officers are: Supervisors, George Tauber (chairman), F. H. Manderfield and William Kl-menbagen; clerk, O. C. Anderson.

The first real estate assessment in township 116, range 34, now Kingman, was made in 1870. Those assessed that year

were: F. D. Hunt, section 2; C. B. Howell, section 2; George B. Wright, sections, 6, 8, 14, 20; C. H. Pettit, sections 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35. In 1877 there were added to this list: C. J. Barnes, section 2; R. J. Mendellhall, sections 25, 27, 28, 29; F. H. Clark, section 29; Henry Grethen, section 33; D. K. Johnson, section 22; Thayer & Kingman, sections 25, 27; J. O. Wanvig, section 19; H. B. Howell, section 2; David C. Shepherd, section 3.

The first personal property assessment of Kingman township, 116-34, was made in 1879. Those assessed were: A. P. Altman, John Broton, David Coons, Wm. H. Frederick, D. W. Gupta, John Gibbs, Henry Jones, Frank Merriman, Leander Stearns, Seth T. Salters, John Pfeiffer, Mrs. S. H. Persson, B. Ever. In 1881, there were added to this list: Samuel Anderson, John Anderson, Adelbert Wilson, Robt. Regnals.

MARTINSBURG TOWNSHIP.

Martinsburg embraces township 114-32. It is bounded on the north by Hector, on the east by Sibley county, on the south by Wellington township, on the west by Palmyra township. W. T. Grummons being a county commissioner and a resident of this town at the time it was organized, named it after a son of his named Martin.

The first claims in this township were filed July 2, 1873, by William Chalk in section 20, and by Thomas Torbenson in section 18, October 21, 1873. In 1874 Winfield S. Jones filed on section 10. In 1875 James Smith filed on section 28.

Martinsburg township was organized September 3, 1878, and an election was ordered to be held at the home of J. B. Mohan in section 22, on September 24, 1878. Owing to insufficiency of notice the election was not held until November 5, 1878, with the following result: Supervisors, Luna Benson (chairman), Ferdinand Marquardt and Friedrich Schwarz; clerk, Smith Dewees; constable, Swan Pearson. The present officers are: Supervisors, John P. Bergman (chairman), Gustav Mueller and Fred Kammrath; Clerk, Ernest Hertel; treasurer, F. J. Macheledt. In 1892 the township erected a town hall in the southwest corner of section 15.

The first real estate assessment in Martinsburg, 114-32, then a part of Wellington, was made in 1874. Those assessed were: Isaac Root, section 20. In 1875 there was added to the list: Winfield S. Jones, section 10. By 1878 there were added to this list: P. D. Winchell, section 20; James Smith, 28; Thomas Torberson, 18; Fred Schwartz, 24; Henry Boland, 22; James Hanna, 32; John M. Anderson, 18. In 1880 the following names were added: John Borgeson, section 30; Reinhold Fritz, 18; Samuel Gilbertson, 6; August Kreiger, 23; William F. Lange, 2; Andrew Macheledt, 13; Mathew Nolan, 27; Anna L. Smith, 28; Ellen Tompkins, 30.

The first personal property assessment

of Martinsburg township, 114-32, was made in 1879. Those assessed were: August Lind, Andrew Magellet, Aug. Kreuger, Casper Magellet, Charles Marquet, Eugene Dodge, E. Stone, Fred Lindorf, Fred Schwartz, Fred Marquette, Henry Schwartz, Mathias Schnickels, Henry Koehler, Halford Olson, John Mahom, John M. Anderson, James Tompkins, Johannes Morgeson, J. Ameson, James Hanna, Joseph, Armstrong, James Smith, John Bartell, L. W. Benson, Martin Mathson, M. John Hokenson, Olrich Bodicher, Patrick K. Mohan, Patrick Rodgers, Smith Dewees, Swan Peterson, Thomas Torbinson, Thomas Maxwell, W. F. Simmons, William Brown, William Callahan.

MELVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Melville township embraces township 115, range 33. It is bounded on the north by Osceola township, on the east by Hector township, on the south by Palmyra township and on the west by Bird Island township. The C. M. & St. P. crosses the township in the central part.

The first settlers were Dora J. Caleff; in the spring of 1872; Newton G. Poore, in the fall of 1872, and F. Hart, Charles Sergeant and Louis Yeager, in the spring of 1873. The first school was taught by Dora J. Caleff in her dwelling on section 18 in 1874. The first birth in the town occurred in 1875, in the family of Ferdinand Steffens.

Melville township was organized January 1, 1878. The first town meeting was held at the house of Albert Brown, January 21, 1878. The meeting was called to order by F. E. Wolff. Albert Brown was chosen to act as clerk of the meeting and F. E. Wolff to preside as moderator. The moderator at the opening of the meeting stated the business to be transacted as follows: To elect three supervisors, a treasurer, town clerk, assessor, two justices of peace and two constables. Joseph Daily and Fred Steffens were chosen judges of election. The proclamation of opening the polls was made by the moderator, the polls opened and the election of town-officers proceeded. At five o'clock the polls were closed, proclamation thereof being made by the moderator. The judges then proceeded to publicly canvass the votes. The following election of officers resulted from this first town meeting: Supervisors, F. E. Wolff (chairman, seven votes), Norman Hickok (eight votes), Matthew Rose (eight votes); treasurer, George Raitz (seven votes); assessor, Joseph Daily (eight votes); town clerk, Albert Brown (eight votes); justices of peace, Hamlin V. Poore (seven votes), George Raitz (seven votes against P. Kirchner with one vote); constables, Fred Steffens (seven votes), P. Kirchner (seven votes against H. Olson with one vote). The present officers are: Supervisors, Fred Koehler (chairman), Otto E. Kreuger, Peter Weis; town clerk, John Walter; treasurer, Albert Witte; as-

essor, Edward Zupke; justices of peace, Robert J. Porter, Eric Vikingson; constables, Joe Kienholz, Charles Roberts.

The first real estate assessment of Melville township, 115-33, was made in 1881. Those assessed were: Jessie Beau, section 4; Lehue Hinds, 4; John Kerney, 5; William S. Parker, 5; E. Carter, 5; J. W. Ladd, 6; Henriette Kerney, 7; A. H. Rud, 8, 16, 17; Norman Hikak, 8; Charles Grimm, 9; F. Wolff, 9, 16; William Ebert, 13; Henriette Kirchner, 13; Henry Wolff, 14, 15; Henry Grimm, 16; August Hedtke, 16, 21; Jacob Walter, 16; U. G. Poor, section 17; Philip Kirchner, 17, 24; S. Cailiff, 18; A. G. Poor, 18; Dora Cailiff, 18; Henry Wells, 22; George H. Raitz, 24, 25; Charles Raitz, 25; John Eckmiller, 27; Fred Kenning, 28; Andrew Vikingson, 29; A. McMullen, 31, 32; Edwin Wolff, 32; Fred Steffus, 18; Daniel Frink, 23; H. E. Wolff, 22; Mrs. J. Draper, 19; Gus Strenzel, 34.

The first personal property assessment of Melville township, 115-33, was made in 1879. Those assessed were: M. Bennett, O. Bennett, E. Burk, Albert Brown, L. Daley, Joseph Daly, G. Gruske, I. Garske, Henry Grimm, Peter Hoagestal, Henry Hipple, A. Hedtke, John Hinds, N. Nikak, H. Hedtke, Phillip Kerchner, Sr., Phillip Kerchner, Jr., Charles Kenning, J. F. Lucas, Jr., J. F. Lucas, Sr., J. Memhast, L. A. Memhast, George H. Megquier, A. McMullen, John Niller, Hermund Olson, N. G. Poor, G. Raitz, John Rice, M. S. Rouse, F. A. Stevens, J. K. Salsbury, C. M. Stevens, J. Tom, H. E. Wolff, F. Wolff.

NORFOLK TOWNSHIP.

Norfolk township embraces township 114-34. It is bounded on the north by Bird Island township, on the east by Palmyra township, on the south by Birch Cooley township and on the west by Henryville township.

The first settlers in Norfolk township were S. D. Childs and Charles Sherwood, who came in the fall of 1868. Soon after came Michael Maloney and Peter and Gust. St. Dennis. Early in 1869 arrived James Brown, Patrick Williams, Dennis Gleason and Michael C. Gleason. In the summer and fall of 1869 there arrived John Stone, Charles Bowler, S. F. Warner, Timothy Kennedy, John Hogan, James Murphy and Thomas Brady.

The first birth in the town was that of Theda, daughter of S. D. Childs, born in March, 1869. She died the following September. The second birth was that of D. W. Brown, who still lives in the township. He was born in July, 1869. Rev. Nabum Tainter, a Methodist, held services in 1869 in private houses and in the school house.

The township of Norfolk was organized as Houlton July 26, 1869. Various changes, both in name and territory took place after that and in October 2, 1876, it assumed its present boundaries. The name was changed to Norfolk in 1874.

The first officers of Norfolk township, elected in March, 1875, were: Supervisors, Silas Brooks (chairman), John Wadenspaner and Philip Ryan; clerk, W. F. Bowler; assessor, L. E. Sherwood; treasurer, Ed. Mahoney; justices of the peace, D. F. Ingram and Ed. Bowler; constables, Charles Ingram and John Regar; road overseers, Frank Adair, Ed. Mahoney and Patrick Williams. The records of Marschner township date back to December 28, 1871. There is a complete record of all the meetings of Norfolk township that have been held since March 13, 1877. The present officers are: Supervisors, Charles Glesener (chairman), Thomas Tisdell and Timothy C. Ryan; clerk, John W. Kern; treasurer, Joseph Schmoll. The modern town hall located in the center of the township on the southeast corner of section 16, was erected in 1904.

The first real estate assessment of Norfolk township, 114-34, was made in 1874. Those assessed were: Libbens White, section 6; M. Toban, 8; R. Durby, 10 (this was transferred to George W. Crouch); John W. Perry, 10; John H. Brooks, 14; Peter St. Dennis, 18; James O'Tool, 26; Paul Revier, 26 (this was transferred to Joseph Revier); Timothy Kennedy, 28; Michael Gleason, 28; L. D. Burdick, 30; Edward Mahoney, 32; Silas Brooks, 32; Samuel D. Childs, 34; Charles H. Sherwood, 34; Levi E. Sherwood, 22; Charles Humboldt, 6, 115-34 (now Bird Island); Laura A. Gage, 30, 115-34 (now Bird Island); Florence E. White, 4 (this was transferred to N. Stone).

The first personal property assessment made in Marschner township, 114-34, now Norfolk, was in 1871. Those assessed were: W. H. Anderson, James Brown, Thomas Brady, Charles Bowler, S. H. Canfield, Frank Canfield, H. S. Calow, Samuel Childs, W. H. Douglass, S. C. Dike, Michael Gleason, John Hogan, Aldin Hassan, George Ingraham, John McLaughlin, Mike Malona, James Murphy, James Powers, Henry Platt, Timothy Kennedy, Paul Revier, N. P. Randall, Peter St. Dennis, O. S. Stone, John Stone, L. E. Sherwood, A. St. Dennis, C. H. Sherwood, O. F. Warner, J. White, L. White, C. C. Warner, Patrick Williams.

Paul Reviere's Reminiscences. I came to Minnesota in 1867, locating in Northfield, and later settled in Bridgewater township, Rice county. Besides myself there were my mother, my brother John, his wife and four children, Julius, his wife and two children, Levi, Joseph and William, all brothers. In 1868 I married Ellen McLaughlin and in 1870 came to Renville county, bringing with me my wife and child. I took a claim in township 114, range 34, which was later named Norfolk. At that time there were seven settlers there: Patrick Williams, Dennis Gleason, Michael C. Gleason, James Brown, Tim Canada, John Stone and Charles Bowler. I built a house, 16 by 20, and a sod stable.

In the winter of 1870 I took my family to Dundas, Rice county, and worked in the woods. My wife stayed with her relatives, who were living there at the time, and we came home in the spring. Our house was made of green wood and was very cold and not at all pleasant to live in. And storms! We have had storms here that would last for three days and three nights and be so severe that one could not get out to take care of the stock, and have had to wait for a day when we could get a load of wood. But we managed the best we could and were happy. Then the grasshoppers came. We were getting along quite well that year and I had raised 700 bushels of wheat, but the grasshoppers took every bit of it. I then was compelled to go out to work. In those days we had to haul our wheat to New Ulm, a distance of forty-five miles. Often on a cold winter's day one could see a long line of ox teams moving slowly along with their loads, the jolly drivers walking alongside, wearing their small muskrat caps and having no overcoats.

The saddest sight I ever saw on the prairie was when we found Michael Maloney, his wife and sister, frozen. The girl was found about three miles from home and the others about four miles away. We took them to their home and thawed them out. There we found three children who had been left alone two days and two nights. They had stayed in bed all the time. When they had become hungry the oldest had found some bread, but it was so frozen that they could not eat it. In the fall, after the frost had blighted the vegetation, it was not safe to travel without matches in one's possession. If a fire was seen coming, the only thing to do was to build a back-fire so that one could have a place of safety, as one could not very easily escape by trying to run away from a prairie fire.

Of the first settlers in the town there are three left: Dennis Gleason, Michael Gleason and myself. I left the farm last spring and came to Franklin, with my wife, where we are now living. We still own our farm in Norfolk, also a farm in Redwood and a farm in North Dakota. We also have a good home here.

OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP.

Osceola township embraces township 116-33. It is bounded on the north by Kandiyohi township, on the east by Brookfield township, on the south by Melville township and on the east by Kingman township.

Osceola was organized September 30, 1879, at the home of J. F. Lucas, Sr. The officers elected were: Supervisors, W. T. Bower (chairman), J. K. Salisbury and B. Potter; clerk, S. M. Freeman; treasurer, J. F. Lucas, Sr.; justices, H. V. Poore and Luther Daily; constables, John Nillis and C. M. Stevens. The first annual meeting was held March 9, 1880. Hamlin V. Poore was chosen to preside as moderator. At 1

o'clock the general business of the town was taken up. J. F. Lucas, Jr., was chosen poundmaster. A pound was ordered constructed on the claim of J. F. Lucas, Jr., within ninety days at a cost not to exceed \$100. It was voted to assess a tax of fifty cents on each \$100 of property valuation in the township for road and bridge purposes, to appropriate \$150 for current expenses and raise \$500 to build a town hall. The officers elected were: Supervisors, W. T. Bower (chairman), William Fulton and C. M. Stevens; clerk, S. M. Freeman; treasurer, J. F. Lucas, Sr.; assessor, H. J. Stevens; justices, H. V. Poore and J. A. Thom; constables, J. F. Lucas, Jr., and M. Farrall. Although it was voted thirty-five years ago to build a town hall none has ever been constructed. There is, however, a very good hall in the township, owned by the Farmers' Club. The present officers are: Supervisors, Frank McCorkle (chairman), Charles Rudeen and Charles Freburg; treasurer, George Plocher; assessor, S. M. Freeman. There are no justices or constables.

J. F. Lucas, Jr., is also still a prominent man in the township. He it was who circulated the petition for the organization of the township. He was influential in having school district No. 90 created in 1882, was elected its first clerk, and has since served continuously in that capacity.

S. M. Freeman, the first and present clerk, has served almost continuously. In this time he has seen many changes. Perhaps one of the most striking is the change in the landscape. In those days there was no timber. Wood was hauled some thirty miles with ox teams, while sometimes straw was burned for fuel and heat. Now every farmer has a grove with sufficient timber for family use. In those days land was worth some \$4 to \$6 an acre, where now it is worth from \$75 to \$100.

The first real estate assessment of township 116, range 33, then a part of Preston Lake, now Osceola, was made in 1869. Those assessed that year were: George Mayer, section 10. In 1870 this township was assessed separately and the following names were added: William Petit, sections 21, 19, 25, 29, 31, 35; A. A. Foss, 6; George Mayer, 10; William Dawson, 10; C. H. Pettit, 13, 15, 17, 19, 23, 29; V. D. Walsh, 14; James A. Beaver, 20, 26, 27, 28, 32, 35; Thomas Dryden, 33; Ezra Cornell, 33, 34.

PALMYRA TOWNSHIP.

Palmyra township embraces township 114-33. It is bounded on the north by Melville township, on the east by Martinsburg township, on the south by Bandon township, and on the west by Norfolk township.

The first settlers are said to be D. S. Greene and a Mr. Franklin, who came in June, 1870, later followed by E. H. Olson and in 1871 J. B. Johnson and Lorens and John Ericson. The first school was taught in 1876 at E. H. Olson's by Martha Ericson.

The first marriage was that of T. A. Risdall and Anna Johnson, in June, 1871. Carl, son of John Olson, born in August, 1870, was the first birth.

Palmyra township, including townships 114, 115 and 116, range 33, was organized January 2, 1872, and an election ordered for January 30, 1872, at the home of E. H. Olson. The following officers were elected: Supervisors, E. H. Olson (chairman), John Anderson and Lafe Tennis; clerk and assessor, Thomas Risdall; treasurer, Ole Halvorson; justice, A. Tollefson; constable, Halver Halvorson. By 1879 Palmyra township was reduced to its present boundaries. The town hall, a structure 16 by 24 feet, is located in the center of the town and was erected in 1876. The present supervisors are William Glesener, Oscar Nelson and John J. Johnson. Arvid Anderson has ably served as clerk for two years. The oldest minutes now in his possession date back to March 10, 1874, only two years after the town was organized.

Palmyra boasts of some of the finest farms and farm homes in the county and with its enterprising, wide-awake and public spirited farmers of Scandinavian and Germanic descent enjoys a rank among its sister townships in which its citizens all take a justifiable pride.

The first real estate assessment of Palmyra (116-33) was made in 1872. Those assessed were: A. Foss, section 6; George Meyer, 10; William Dawson, 10, 14; C. O. Porter, 8; R. J. Mundenhall, 13, 15, 17, 19, 23, 29, 34; William Pettit, 19, 21, 25, 29, 31; James Beaver, 20, 26, 27, 28, 32, 35; D. H. Holmes, 33, 34, 27, 28; Ezra Cornell, 33, 34; Charles M. Humstock, 12. By 1877 quite a number of people had acquired property in Palmyra, 114-33, the real estate assessment that year being as follows: B. Tollefson, section 4; Anfin Tollefson, 4; Hans Gronnerud, 4, 32; Eric Ericson, 8; Ammund Tollefson, 10; Thomas Dougherty, 18; John Dougherty, 18; A. G. Anderson, 24; Carl Anderson, 24; Peter Anderson, 24; S. Bergman, 22; Paul Ramberg, 30; Pat Gillan, 30; Carl Danielson, 32; George Karney, 32; Bernt Anderson, 34; Andrew Jorgenson, 34.

The first personal property assessment in Palmyra (114-33) was made in 1872. Those assessed were: Ben Anderson, John Anderson No. 1, John Anderson No. 2, Anton Christianson, Dora Caleff, George Carny, Nelson Ericson, Eric Ericson, John Ericson, Larens Ericson, Ole Ericson, Peter Ericson, P. Geland, D. S. Green, Ole Halvorson, L. Frank Hart, J. B. Johnson, T. Jacobson, Alex. Johnson, John King, Denis Lorden, Andrew Larson, Lafe Lavinson, A. C. Mark, E. J. Mark, John Olson, Ed. H. Olson, Newton G. Poor, P. J. Ranberg, C. A. Sargent, Nilson Reed, Ole L. Tinnes, Lafe Tinnes, Amond Tolfson, G. L. Yeager.

PRESTON LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Preston Lake township embraces township 115-31. It is bounded on the east by the townships of Collins and Lynn in McLeod county, on the south by Grafton township in Sibbey county, on the west by Hector township and on the north by Boon Lake township. Lake Allie is in the northern part. Preston lake is a large body of water in sections 10, 11 and 3. There are several smaller lakes in the southwestern part, among which may be mentioned Buffalo lake and Lake Chamberlain. The village of Buffalo Lake is in the southwestern part of the township. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul crosses the township in the southern part.

On the shores of Buffalo lake was originally a heavy growth of timber. Some of the oaks were from twenty inches to two and a half feet in diameter, capable of producing four twelve foot saw logs. These oaks were extensively used by the early settlers in constructing their homes.

The first claims in this township were taken in 1856 and 1857. Nothing can be learned about this settlement except the record of the claims in the land office records. A previous history has said that Dr. Engle and A. Van Meter settled here just before the Massacre.

In 1864 Mrs. Minerva Warren, with eight others, came into Preston Lake township. Mrs. Warren erected a house at once, close to Buffalo creek. This was the first house in the township so far as can be learned. None of the nine except Mrs. Warren proved up on their claims. That fall Ensign Chilson built a cabin, believed to be the second in the township. At the close of the war came Mrs. Warren's son, F. L. Warren. He was a soldier in the Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Until he came his mother was alone on her claim. She was grifty, but the fear of the Indians had not yet departed, and in later life she used to tell with relish of the nights when, too excited over Indian stories to sleep, she would patrol her premises with a pitchfork as her only weapon. The Warrens sold out in 1872, and moved to Angus, Iowa, where Mr. Warren still lives.

William Rosser and family, then consisting of a wife and three children, came from near London, Ontario, and arrived in Preston Lake in the spring of 1866. The last forty miles of the journey was made by team by way of Henderson and Glencoe. He settled on a farm of 140 acres in the eastern part of the township on the south bank of Preston lake. About the same time came Watkin Eynon and family; David and Robert Allway, father, and families; William Burgess and family; Lorenzo Gilbert and family; E. U. Russell and family.

In June, 1866, came Hiram H. Davis, who is now living at Bruce, Wis. He took a

homestead in section 7. With him came his brother, William Davis, and Ira S. Sheppard and family.

The nearest postoffice was Glencoe, twenty miles away. The nearest market was Hutchinson, fourteen miles. There was no mail route until some time later, when one was established between Henderson and Lake Lillian, passing through Preston Lake twice a month. The roads in 1866 were almost impassable, owing to the wet season, and flour at Hutchinson went up to \$20 a barrel.

Among others of the very earliest settlers the following families arrived: A. H. Reeks, Thomas Havens, James A. Washburn, Stephen Green, Allison Houck, William Herring, Judson Mann, Frank and Levi Bartlett, William Phare, Henry L. Haws. There were also some transient families who came and went but made no permanent home.

In 1870 and the years following came the families of S. H. Kellogg, Frank Bartlett, Adelbert H. Ives, John Borden, Francis Maddock, Charles Wilson, Curtiss Roan, T. L. Richardson, William Kelderhouse, Julius Hemeke, Charles Newcomb, Charles Wilson, Nathan Van Meter, David and Erastus Jenkins, Charles Allen, Dwight Kingsley. Curtiss Roan lived on the shores of Buffalo lake, the old fortifications being on his farm. He sold out to John C. Riebe, the original proprietor of Buffalo Lake village.

The grasshopper scourge swept over this vicinity four consecutive years in the early seventies. All crops of small grains were devoured, all that remained to be gathered being potatoes and prairie hay. One year of drouth also caused a failure of crops. The settlers were reduced to the verge of destitution. Some state aid was rendered in the way of furnishing seed grain. One feature helped the citizens of Preston Lake and vicinity which did not prevail in many other parts of the county. The creeks and lakes abounded in fish. Game of all kinds was plentiful.

About 1874 a more frequent mail route came into existence and a postoffice called Swansea was established. William Rosser was appointed postmaster. He continued in this position eighteen years. For sixteen years he was town clerk.

After the Massacre the first school was taught in 1870 by Mary Stone. A public school was organized in 1875 with Sarah Eynon as teacher. The first marriage was that of Judson Mann and Lucy Haven, in 1867. The first birth was George, son of R. Allway, born in 1867. The first deaths occurred in 1866; two men who had gone after groceries and mail were found frozen to death; their names were Goulette and Cairne. They were buried near Preston Lake, but later removed to the graveyard south of the Preston Lake school house. It is said that it was snowing when the men started for home and that the people

at the store tried to persuade them to postpone the journey. They were found dead less than three miles from their claims.

William Reeks, a Baptist preacher, settled in Preston Lake in the early days, but after a while went to Canada, where he died. S. H. Kellogg, a Congregational preacher, lived in the early days in the southeast quarter of section 14. It was his wife who kept the private school which became so widely known. David Chilson, an early settler, lived in section 3. It is told of him that in the early days he captured a buffalo calf in the township and took it to Minneapolis, where he sold it for \$50. An old soldier named Hatch was kicked by a mule in the early days as the result of which he died. He owned half a section of land. A cemetery was established in pioneer times near the school house and near Preston lake. This cemetery is still in use. William Rosser gave the deed to the property, the cemetery having been started on his farm. A. F. Jackson in the early days owned a large farm on the shores of Preston lake. It is still the largest farm in the township, though it has been reduced. He ran a lumber yard on the place and it is said that he was unable to pay for all the lumber he purchased, and that for this cause the farm passed into the possession of outside parties. Mr. Jackson went from here to the Southwest and was a pioneer in the boom days in Oklahoma.

Preston Lake was organized September 7, 1869; it then consisted of Boon Lake and Preston Lake; it has had its present boundaries since September 6, 1870. The first town meeting was held September 28, 1869, at the home of William Phare, in charge of Hiram H. Davis, George Reeks and M. C. Russell. It resulted as follows: Supervisors, E. U. Russell (chairman), William Rosser and Ira S. Sheppard; Hiram H. Davis, clerk; James A. Washburn, treasurer; G. A. Gifford and Allison Houck, justices; Judson L. Mann and William Herring, constables. Ten votes were cast. Each officer elected received a unanimous vote with the exception of Judson L. Mann. He received nine votes, the tenth going to Robert Alway. This town is fortunate in that it has the minutes of this first meeting and of all the meetings since then, thus covering a period of 46 years.

The township has a hall built in 1900 and located in the village of Buffalo Lake. The voters of the village are included in the poll list of the township. At present there are about 300 voters in the township, including those in the village. The present town officers are: Supervisors, G. H. Werner (chairman), August Simons and Gustav Koebnick; clerk, Frank Wallner; treasurer, John Quast; assessor, William D. Wallner; justice of the peace, H. F. Moede; constable, Claus Grelk.

The first real estate assessment of Preston Lake township (115-31) was made in

1869, being as follows: Downer & Jackson, sections 1, 6; J. E. & H. Thompson, 1, 2; Albert W. Drake, 2; Alex. Green, 2, 3; Samuel T. Darby, 3; S. Marlow, 3; T. E. Chilson, 4; Lavina Engle, 4; William L. Tayler, 5; J. O. Hatch, 5, 6, 17; C. W. C. Munsell, 6, 8, 17, 19, 21; Louis Marlow, 9, 10; Thomas E. Clucken, 9; David Allway, 9; David Chilson, 9, 10; H. E. Savage, 10, 15; John A. Michael, 11; P. Shaw, 12; John Simpson, 12; T. M. Martin, 13; Henry L. Benson, 14, 15; L. D. Gilbert, 15; J. H. Pennell, 18, 19, 31; William Rosser, 21; Levi H. Bartlett, 21, 22, 28; Betsy Miller, 24; Francis C. Griswold, 24; Oliver S. Munsell, 25, 26; S. P. Souers, 26; Aron R. Souers, 27; B. C. Smith, 27; Thomas E. Smith, 27; Thomas J. Smith, 28; L. Munsell, 29; John C. Root, 30; W. H. N. Richardson, 35.

The first personal property assessment of Preston Lake township, 115-31, was made in 1872. Those assessed were: H. F. Bartlett, Thomas E. Chilson, H. H. Davis, James Edwards, Stephen Greene, Allison Houck, Lucy M. Havens, Elijah Houck, Henry L. Haws, R. A. Ives, S. H. Kellogg, George Maddock, Francis Maddock, William Rosser, James A. Washburn.

SACRED HEART TOWNSHIP.

(By Ole O. Enestvedt.)

It is a fact that the first settlements in this part of the country were started along rivers and streams, where the pioneers, who were never of the rich class of people, could find plenty of water, timber and hay for their needs. True to this custom, the first band of settlers in this township located in the Minnesota river valley and on the prairie along the natural groves of timber.

One of the first white men out here after the 1862 Indian outbreak was Thomas Olsen Kolien (now spelled Collin), then from Houston, in Fillmore county, this state. He went west in 1864 with the intention of digging gold in Idaho, but only went as far as Montana. He was afterward employed by the United States government as a teamster hauling provisions from Sioux City up the Missouri river to points in the Dakotas and Montana. The Indians there were very troublesome and Mr. Kolien encountered many fights with them.

After a two years' stay he went back to Fillmore county and told his friends about the desirable land along the Minnesota river that could be had under the homestead law. So in the spring of 1866 a caravan of five covered wagons was formed and the following persons started out for the new country: (1) Ole Kolien; wife, Joran, and six, mostly grown-up, children, Thomas, Peder, Gouleik, Sigrid, Swen and Sten. Thomas had a wagon of his own. Hellek, another son, did not come until the following year. (2) Ole Halvorsen Rennevam; wife, Gunild; and four mostly grown-

up children, Halvor, Reier, Hellek and Turina. (3) Thor Helgeson; wife, Helga; and one child, Birgitta. (4) Paul Petersen; wife, Guri; and one child, Petter. In all there were nineteen people. They traveled by way of Mankato, St. Peter and New Ulm, and crossed the Minnesota river to Fort Ridgely, where they left their wagons and the women and children in charge of Ole Kolien. Near Morton the men again crossed the river, going over to the Lower Agency, under the impression that the desirable homestead land was on the south side of the river. They passed through Redwood Falls, then consisting mostly of Indian teepees, and continued in a northwesterly direction to the Indian agency at Yellow Medicine, where they found that the free land was on the north side of the Minnesota river. They spent the night at the agency and found there a man named Tosten Rustgaard, who had come a little earlier that spring and taken a claim on the south side of the Minnesota river, in what was afterward section 2, township of Sioux Agency, Yellow Medicine county, and across from what was afterward the Oslie place in Hawk Creek township. With Rustgaard as their guide, the party again forded the Minnesota river and passed down the lowlands until a beautiful spot, where the bottoms widened out into a large plain. Here was an expanse of rich land, covered with waving violet blue-joint grass, and with many slightly groves along creeks running merrily into the river. Surrounded by such a prospect, the wanderers felt a homelike feeling stealing over them and decided that here they would cast their lots. Therefore on June 17, 1866, sitting on a high rock on the river bank, from which a good view of the surrounding territory was to be obtained, they made an agreement to select claims in the order of their ages, the oldest to have the first choice. Two of the party, Helgeson and Petersen, at once started back to Fort Ridgely. There the caravan had been joined by Bernt Larson, his wife Martha and children, Anna and Maria, and by Kristian Kvern, a single man. The caravan at once set out for the selected land and arrived June 21. Each settler secured a claim on a creek, and plenty of timber for fuel and building purposes. So, though they had to live in covered wagons while they were getting their shacks ready, they got along fairly well. The worst foe to fight in those days was not Indians but mosquitoes. They were thick enough to obscure sunlight on warm days and came near killing the settlers' cattle. The only relief from these pests was to make "smudges" and smoke them away. The smudges were made both in cattle yards and in the houses in iron pots. Of course the smoke was pretty hard to endure, especially for the children, but anything was preferable to the continual stinging and whining of these pests. The

columns of smoke rising from the settlers' homes in those days were the surest guides of the stranger to the white man's cabin.

Indians were numerous, a large group of them having their teepees in Oslie's grove and some 500 Indians lived in the timber at Hawk Creek and Minnesota Falls, but they were generally friendly. About the greatest annoyance they caused was their continual begging for food and scaring women and children when the men folks were away.

In the fall of the first year the settlers had to go clear back to Scandia Grove settlement, Nicollet county, for their provisions. This was ninety miles distant and with oxen the journey took several days. Here they bought seed wheat for \$2.75 per bushel, flour at \$9 per 100 pounds or \$18 per barrel. A few chickens and cats were also secured at \$1 apiece. The first crop (1867) was destroyed by myriads of blackbirds, crows and gophers, so there was hardly a bushel of grain raised. One of the settlers raised a quantity of turnips, which he shared with his neighbors. They were boiled and used instead of butter on bread. Game and fish were plentiful and this helped out on the food question. That summer a great prairie fire threatened the settlement and also drove a number of cows into the river, where they were drowned. Seed wheat for the next year was bought at New Ulm at \$1.25 per bushel.

The next summer (1868) was perhaps as filled with privations as any, as the little money and credit the people had was gone and not much of a crop had been raised up to this time. Many men folks and several women now went east to Nicollet county to work during the summer. But that fall help came. A good crop of wheat was raised, yielding upwards of forty bushels per acre. The grain had to be threshed out by flail or trampled out by cattle and sifted out of the straw by throwing with a shovel. Thor Helgesen says he finished his log stable late in the fall, and then poured water over the earth floor, which froze and made the nicest threshing floor one could wish for. Threshing in winter when snow was on the bundles had its serious drawbacks, because so much snow and ice mixed with the grain that it was almost unfit for milling purposes. Thomas Olsen (Kolien) relates that as soon as he had threshed out his wheat he put on a good load, thinking he would stop the flour famine among the settlers. Imagine his disappointment when the miller told him that it would be next to impossible to grind his wheat on account of the ice it contained. He would try to grind some of it, which Mr. Olsen would have to come and get some other time.

The trips to the mill in Redwood Falls also had their incidents. The Minnesota river had to be forded and in spring, when water was high, the only way to get across was to unhitch the oxen and swim them

across, then take as many sacks of wheat as a boat would carry and make as many trips across as necessary, taking the wagon apart and across piecemeal. In one particular case, when the rear gear of the settler's wagon had been placed across the boat so that the wheels hung down into the water, the current on the upper side caught hold of the wheel and tipped boat and all over. A few sacks were also along and these floated merrily down the river in company with wagon wheels and boat, to which the men were clinging for dear life. Drifting near enough to shore they got the boat righted and wheels fished ashore, but the sacks were nowhere to be seen. Nothing daunted by this little incident, the pioneers coupled their wagon together, loaded on the remaining sacks and started for the mill. This crossing or ford was called "Minnesota Crossing," and was located below the brown stone building. The first threshing machine brought into this township was bought in 1869 by Ole Kolien & Sons. It was a 28-inch cylinder machine, of 8 horse power, that had no wheels but had to be hung under a wagon to be moved. Later on a larger machine, owned by Thor Helgesen, Halvor Helgesen, Ole Evenstvedt and Ole Tufts, which was run for a period of twelve years, claims the honor of covering a larger territory than usual. One particular fall this company threshed the grain of sixty-eight farmers in four different counties, keeping on until Christmas, when the snowdrifts were as high as the backs of the horses trucking around the power.

The first wheat raised in the settlement was hauled to Beaver Landing, a station for the steamboats then plying the Minnesota river somewhere near Redwood Falls. Wheat brought only sixty cents per bushel (on account of the late war) and was shipped by boat down the river. Later on better prices were obtained, but as steamship traffic on the Minnesota river was discontinued the nearest railroad and grain market was Willmar, some forty miles away. The trips with oxen across the treeless and unsettled prairie with only scant clothing were some of the hardships of pioneer life. Many early settlers were lost in storms and frozen to death and others were ruined in health by exposure. Added to this there was a constant fear of Indians "breaking out" again and prairie fires had to be fought while the land was being turned into the smiling settlement which it is today.

In 1871 the grasshopper plague struck the new settlement and lasted for three years. The first season of their stay they came rather late in summer and about one-third of the crops remained after their ravages. They laid eggs in the fall and next season ate up everything, even spoiling the meadows for hay. The third year they left after spoiling the crop to some extent. Many experiments were tried to

kill hoppers and save the grain, such as plowing deep furrows on the side of fields from which marauders were attacking it, spreading old straw along edges of fields and burning it, but it availed nothing against the millions of invaders, marching on like trained soldiers in one direction. An incident from this is told in this way, by Thomas Olsen (Kolien):

One morning he discovered that the grasshoppers had come in the night and had started on his best piece of wheat, gnawing at the straw so that he could see them fall. He got disheartened and made a vow that if this field was spared he would hunt up the poorest man in the neighborhood and give him ten bushels of wheat. It seems that this was the last stay of the hoppers, who when their wings had grown large enough would rise in a body and fly away—nobody knows where. At noon our farmer heard a great buzzing, and looking out he discovered the air so full of grasshoppers as to obscure the sun. They went away for good, and although his field was damaged somewhat, he kept his vow and found a poor family just settled on the prairie and almost destitute, and ten bushels of wheat has hardly ever been received with more joy and gratefulness than in this case.

This settlement of sturdy Scandinavians, while the beginning of the influx of the substantial people of that nationality to the western part of Renville county, was not the first settlement in Sacred Heart. People had been here before the Massacre. The famous Major Joseph R. Brown stone house had been built about 1860. In 1865, before the Scandinavian colony arrived, G. P. Greene had settled in the township.

Mr. Greene was a prominent man in the township. He was the first postmaster of Minnesota Crossing, so called from the ford below his house. The mail was brought by a carrier from Vicksburg until 1876.

Mr. Greene was also the first school teacher for several years in the first school house in the township erected late in the year 1868 in section 5 on corner of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter. Each of the settlers hauled two logs and put the building up with their axes. At first it had only the earth floor and sod roof, but later a floor and shingle roof were added improvements. Long tables with four-legged slabs on each side for benches furnished the inside. Many of the later successful citizens of the township got their first instruction in this humble building under the tutelage of Mr. Greene. Among those strapping young fellows we mention the following: P. O. Kittilsland and his brother Torbjorn, Ole Mogen, Halvor Helgesen, Kolben Knutsen, Thomas and Hellek Olsen (Kolien), Halsten and Anton Kokken, Ole Knutson, Ole Tufts, Reier and Hellek Halvorsen, Andrew and Martin Osli, Otto and Martin Sveiven. The girls were represented by Joron Enestvedt,

Gunild Teigen, Astrid Flaata, Lina and Christiana Asli, Hattie and Alice Greene. The first marriage by "squire" was also solemnized at the old Greene place and the contracting parties were Kristian Kvern and his newcomer bride who was instructed to say "yes" whenever Squire Greene spoke to her. During the ceremony, when the justice looked her way, she would put in a decided "yes," to which the old man remarked afterwards, "She was almost too willing; she said yes all the time." In the evening the happy couple, having neglected to give a wedding party, were treated to a moonlight serenade from stovepipes and cowbells and frying pans, such as only the hardened muscles of the frontier boys could produce. The serenaders took their victim out in his night clothes and rode him around on a rail until he was almost exhausted. Mr. Kvern afterwards had the whole gang arrested, and it is related that they were so numerous that when given dinner at the hotel in Beaver Falls they ate up everything in the place. Most of them were fined, and those who could not pay were ordered to work out the fine by grubbing on the bridegroom's claim! Another lawsuit was that of Ole Johnson vs. Ole Halvorsen Rennevat, the case being held at the Vicksburg store. There had been a dispute between the men about some trespassing cattle, and this resulted in Ole Johnson's attempt to stab Ole Halvorsen with a knife. The latter was haying and had his pitchfork handy, holding it out so the other man ran into it enough to show marks from the prongs. Ole Johnson then proceeded to Justice Greene's (one mile distant) and swore out a warrant for assault. Fortunately for the aged Rennevat, he had had an eye-witness to the case in his son Hellek, and this turned the tale so that Ole Johnson had to pay \$5 fine and costs. The lawyers on this case got into such a wrangle that they fought hand to hand, and one of them threw the other out of the store building.

In 1867 came to Sacred Heart Ole and Tollef Enestvedt, Lars Rudi, Hellek Kolien (Collin), Erik Nilsen, Ole Melsness, Gune-rus Melsness, Peter Mortinsen (Mangerud), Ole B. Dahl, Ole Johnson. In 1868 came Hermo Halvorsen, Johan Olson (Forkrud), Peder Gundersen (Trane), Anders Samuelson, Bernt and Oluf Kortgaard, P. G. Peterson (Goli) and Erik Goli, Halvor Goli, K. Trongaard, Peder Eriksen, Ole Tufto, Emil Lilleby, Peder P. Olsen, J. P. Okins, Lars P. Kottum. In 1869 came Halvor Tufto, Sr., H. W. Olson, N. W. Brooks, S. Brooks, Lars Tufto, Johannes Hang, Henrik Oslund, Gunder Sorensen, Mikkal H. Strandjord, Ole O. Sveiven. In 1870 came Halvor and Stener Helgesen, Mathias, Samuelson, Peder Osli and others.

On April 6, 1869, the first town election was held at the house of G. P. Greene, whose small log house was the town center

up to 1876. At this town meeting the following officers were chosen: S. Brooks (chairman), Ole Johnson and P. G. Peterson, supervisors; G. P. Greene, clerk; Ole B. Dahl, assessor; Ole O. Enestvedt, treasurer; P. W. Brooks and G. P. Greene, justices; J. P. Okens, constable. On motion the name of Sacred Heart was given to the new township.

Two stories are told of the naming of Sacred Heart. One story concerns Charles Patterson, who settled in Flora township, on the Renville county side of the rapids in the Minnesota river, in 1783, and there established a trading post. He wore a peculiar shaped hat, made of fur, and the Indians began to call him the man with the strange or mysterious or magic hat. Their word "wakan," really meaning "spirit," being applied to anything that they did not quite comprehend or that was unusual in any way. Each particular clan of Indians had some animal which they never killed and which they regarded as sacred. It has been said that the Indians then living in this locality esteemed the bear sacred and that Patterson's hat was made of the fur from a great bear which had frequented the neighborhood.

Gradually they began to refer to the man himself as "The Spirit Hat" or "The Sacred Hat," the meaning being the same as the name from which "Medicine Hat" was translated. Later the white people corrupted the name of "Sacred Hat" to Sacred Heart.

A much more pleasing story of the name was told to Ed. O'Connor, of Sacred Heart, by Louis G. Brisbois, a French pioneer of Hawk Creek township. He declared that in the early days, the mouth of the Sacred Heart creek formed in the shape of a heart and that a French missionary-priest, inspired by this, had given the name of Sacred Heart to a mission of French half-breeds and Indians that he had established here, and that the locality gradually took the name of this early mission, still retaining it long after the mission had passed into oblivion.

Sacred Heart township embraces township 115, range 37, and a fractional part of township 114, range 37. It is bounded on the north by Ericson township, on the east by Emmet and Flora townships, on the southwest by the Minnesota river, and on the west by Hawk Creek township. The township has one thriving village of the same name. The railroad crosses it in the northern part. The township is settled by Norwegians and Swedes, with a small sprinkling of Americans, Irish and Germans.

Thor Helgeson has many interesting stories to tell of pioneer times. No one today can realize the difficulties that agricultural operations presented in the early days. In 1866 Mr. Helgeson managed to break three acres. In 1867 he went to a place thirteen miles this side of St. Peter

and purchased three or four bushels of wheat at \$2.75 a bushel. This he sowed on the three acres. But the blackbirds entirely destroyed the crop and nothing whatever was realized from the three acres.

During the grasshopper plague Mr. Helgeson remembers one day, when he and others took a team and went to the field in an effort to get some straw before the grasshoppers could get it. The grasshoppers were so thick and blinding that the oxen had to be unhitched and led back to their stable.

One year some of the wheat was saved by dragging long strings through the fields and thus knocking the hoppers from the wheat stalks.

But in 1876 there was a satisfactory crop, and the wheat exhibited by Mr. Helgeson at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia was the best that was presented from Minnesota. The first cat, the first chicken and the first rooster in Sacred Heart township were purchased by Thor Helgeson at Swan Lake in Nicollet county in 1867. He paid \$1 each for the cat, the chicken and the rooster. In the fall of 1866 Mr. Helgeson went to West Newton and bought some flour at \$6 a hundred. This was not quite enough. In the spring of 1867 he noticed a man in the bottoms with a load of goods, having a hard time to get through. For \$1 he helped the man through to Minnesota Falls and there bought some flour for \$9 a hundred.

About Christmas time in 1867, Mr. Helgeson, with two companions, Tov Rudi and Knut Berget, started on snow shoes for Redwood Falls. Tov Rudi got tired and found shelter in the edge of the timber along Rice creek, about a mile from Redwood Falls. He froze his feet and could not walk, and lay in the snow partly unconscious all night. He was found by the Indians the next morning, but died a few days later. Thor Helgeson and Knut Berget kept on their way back to Sacred Heart. When they nearly reached the ferry south of Vicksburg, they found that they could go no further. They made themselves a camp in the sheltered place between two large rocks and though Mr. Helgeson had but one match and half another, they succeeded in kindling a fire with dry cedar, which they kept burning by using pieces of wood split from a basswood log which was near the shelter. Fortunately, Mr. Helgeson had a sharp knife, and he also had an axe head, which he had purchased in Redwood Falls. But using a stick for a handle to the axe head he managed to split up quite a little of the basswood log. Thus the night was spent and the two men escaped freezing.

The nearest markets were at Willmar, some forty miles away and at New London, some twelve miles beyond Willmar. The scarcity of money and the long distance that supplies must be brought made the use of substitutes a necessity. Prairie

tea was used in place of imported tea. Green coffee berries were purchased, roasted at home and then ground in the coffee mill. This hand coffee mill was useful in other ways. Wheat was ground in it and from the coarse flour thus resulting a sort of a wheat pudding was made. Corn was also ground in the same mill and corn bread made from it.

The first real estate assessment of Sacred Heart township, 114-37, was made in 1869. Those assessed were: Ole Gilbertson, sections 5, 8; Peter A. Oslie, 6; Andres Samulson, 8; Halvor Olson, 13; Fred Thies, 13; John D. Rosenmeyer, 13.

By 1872 quite a number of people had acquired property in Sacred Heart township (114-37, 115-37), the real estate assessment that year being as follows: 114-37—Bartel Larson, section 6; Ole B. Dahl, 5; Thor Helgeson, 5, 6, 7, 8; Ole Halleckson, 6, 7; Gilbert Severtson, 6; Anders Samuelson, 8; Aslak Asmonson, 6; John D. Roseymer, 13; Daniel Ames, 24; Emile Hammel, 13; Ole Halvorson, 16; Julius Larson, 16; Ole Enestvedt, 16; Halvor Olson, 13; John O. Pain, 12, 13; H. E. Wadsworth, 24, 13; M. Duncan, 13; John Warner, 24; Thomas Olson, 5; Hallek Olson, 5; Ole Gilbertson, 5, 8; Peter A. Oslie, 6, 115-37—Ole B. Dahl, section 32.

The first personal property assessment of Sacred Heart township (114-37 and 115-37) was made in 1869. Those assessed were: Daniel Ames, Halver Anderson, S. Brooks, Samuel Burnell, N. W. Brooks, William Beckman, Christian Christianson, Brent Christianson, Ole B. Dahl, Samuel Daniels, William F. Dyne, Tollef O. Enestvet, Ole O. Enestvet, G. P. Green, Erik Gunderson, Hermo Halverson, John Houg, Louis Holstine, Ole Halleckson, Ole Halvorson, Thor Helgeson, Iver Iverson, Ole Jensen, Brent Larson, Peter Mortenson, Ole O. Melsnes, Erik Nielson, John C. Norman, Thomas Olson, Halleck Olson, J. P. Okins, Peter Oslie, C. C. O'Brien, Eli Okins, Lars Peterson, Henrik Person, John O. Paine, John Peterson, Peter Peterson, Lares L. Rude, Gulbert Syverson, Ole O. Sveiven, William Wiemens.

G. P. Greene was the first settler in Sacred Heart township after the Massacre. He, his son Datus, and John O. Paine arrived here in the early part of 1866. From Ft. Ridgely they passed the home of Holger Jacobus, in the southeastern part of the county, and then took a northwestwardly course. After they had crossed the east branch of the Sacred Heart creek, Mr. Paine took possession of a fine piece of land in sections 12 and 13 bordering on the creek. Near here they came upon Sam Burnell, a bachelor, who with a companion was camping there. Burnell later took a claim nearby. Mr. Greene continued about four miles further west, where he came to the ruins of the Major Joseph R. Brown buildings. There he decided to locate. The Greens at once started a house, and while

Datus was completing it, G. P. went back and got his family, consisting of his wife, Adaline C. Greene, and the children, Frank C. Greene, aged 12; Alice, aged 9; Hattie, aged 6, and William, aged 3. They arrived on a bright balmy day in the early part of June. Datus L. Greene took a claim adjoining.

The Major Brown Indian agency building, the ruins of which may still be seen, was constructed of granite, and was three stories high on the lower side and two stories on the upper side, by reason of its standing on the hillside. It was about 24 by 60 feet in size.

At the time G. P. Greene settled there, the north side and the west end were standing complete, but the two upper stories of the east end had fallen and about one-third of the south side was down. The foundations of many of the houses in that locality are built of rock taken from this ruin, as it was difficult to find rock north of the river for foundation purposes.

There was also a stone stable at the entrance to the glen, with walls partly standing. Mr. Greene fixed this up and used it as long as he lived there.

There was a well of good water just east of the stone house, stoned up, and about forty feet deep. Mr. Greene cleaned out the well and used it while he lived there. Frank C. Greene remembers that in cleaning it they found a pickaxe, shovel, pitchfork and other things that the Indians had thrown in there, evidently with the intention of killing anyone who might have resorted to it for safety.

The little stone structure the ruins of which are just east of the ruin was built by Mr. Greene and used as a granary or storeroom. The large cottonwood trees now standing in front of the ruins were planted in 1866 by Mr. Greene and his son.

TROY TOWNSHIP.

Troy township embraces township 115-35. It is bounded on the north by Winfield township, on the east by Bird Island township, on the south by Henryville township, and on the west by Emmet township. The village of Danube is in the northwestern part of the township and part of the residence portion of Olivia lies within its borders. The C., M. & St. P. crosses the township in the northern part.

August Schendel settled in the township in 1871 and in 1873 brought his family. In 1872 Paul Seeger, Peter Miller and Charles Waldo settled in the township. The first religious meeting was held by the Evangelical society in 1881, a church being built by them that year at a cost of \$1,600. The first school was taught in the township by Maggie Ericson in 1877. The first birth was that of Robert Seeger, May, 1873; the first death, Birdie Brown, 1874, and the first marriage, Millard White and Delia Miller, in 1878.

Troy township was organized March 21, 1876, and the first election held on April 8 at the house of Ira Everson: Supervisors, Henry Knauf (chairman), Ira Everson and August Schendel; clerk, J. L. White; assessor, Charles Waldo; treasurer, T. H. Risinger; justices, August Schendel and T. H. Risinger; constable, Charles Waldo. The present officers are: Supervisors, J. A. Fritzen, Julius Manthei and C. A. Stange; clerk, A. W. Black; treasurer, Ed. Grunert; assessor, William Stange; justice of the peace, George Machetedt; road overseer, F. A. Zelmner. The village of Danube furnishes the village hall for town meetings and elections.

The first real estate assessment in Troy township, 115-35, then a part of Henryville, was made in 1874. Those assessed were: David R. Culver, section 22. In 1875, there was added to this list: A. W. Wilcox, section 22. In 1876, there were added to this list (now called Troy): Henry Lusher, section 8; James White, section 22; Julia M. Everson, section 22; Jonathan White, section 24. In 1878, there were added to this list: R. G. Winter, section 8; P. H. Kirwan, section 22; J. W. Hodsdon, section 14; Ira J. Everson, section 14; E. M. Everson, section 14; Dennis Healy, section 26; Amos Casey, section 32.

The first personal property assessment of Troy township, 115-35, was made in 1876. Those assessed were: Amos Casey, John Ericson, I. Everson, Herman Frietes, Thos. Flanagan, J. W. Hodsdon, John D. Johnson, Henry Knauf, E. Lindquist, Peter Miller, John Miller, Wm. Rick, T. H. Risinger, Gustaf Rick, Paul Seeger, Carl Saurel, John Snickari, M. H. Slasson, August Shendel, Gusta Shendel, Robert Stelter, Ferdinand Ulrickson, A. Whip, James L. White, Charles Waldo, Dennis Haley.

In 1915 those assessed for personal taxes in the township were as follows: W. F. Ahrendt, Aug. W. Black, Jac. P. Brtek, Walter Bingenheimer, W. A. Braun.

WINFIELD TOWNSHIP.

Winfield township embraces township 116-35. It is bounded on the north by Kandiyohi county, on the east by Kingman township, on the south by Troy township, on the west by Crooks township.

The first claim was filed in this township on April 17, 1869, by Christian Michael in section 18. In 1870 F. A. Atwater filed on section 18. In 1877 Friedrich Zinne was on section 28 and Carl Henning on section 30. The first school was taught in the winter of 1876 at T. Ulrickson's house. Albert Lindquist, in August, 1872, was the first birth in the town. The first religious meetings were held by the Norwegian Lutherans in 1874.

Winfield was created as Liberty township April 17, 1878, and the first meeting was ordered to be held at the home of Ulrick Julson May 4, 1878. There was evidently some informality about this organi-

zation, as on December 3, 1878, another petition was granted, organizing and naming the town. Three days later the same petition was again granted and an election was ordered. The town was duly organized at a meeting held December 27, 1878. The following officers were elected: Supervisors, W. A. Morgan (chairman), A. Nelson and clerk, A. D. Simpkins; treasurer, John Miller; assessor, John Erickson; justice of the peace, William Hodgdon; constables, P. Olson and Ulrick Julson. The election was held at the residence of D. John Johnson, on Long Lake. The next meeting was held on March 3, 1879, and all the officers re-elected. At the next meeting held at the clerk's office, March 26, 1879, the name of the town by order of the county board, was changed from Liberty to Winfield, another town in the state having previously been given the name of Liberty. The present officers are: Supervisors, Henry Heinemann (chairman), Charles Cuta, Fred Schroer; clerk, George H. Billiar; treasurer, William A. Johnson; justices of the peace, Carl Laummer, Robert J. Sommerfield; constables, Joseph Havlisch, Robert Johnson; assessor, Robert J. Sommerfield. Meetings are held in the schoolhouse of district 74.

The first real estate assessment in township 116, range 35, now Winfield, was made in 1870. Those assessed that year were: Christian Michael, section 18; William J. Foster, sections 27, 28; Thomas Druder, section 34. In 1878, there were added to this list: Frederick Zinne, sections 28, 30; Carl Henning, section 30. By 1882, quite a number had acquired real property in Winfield township, 116-35. Those assessed that year were: Eric Whipp, section 2; Eric Lindquist, section 2; John Ericson, section 2; Fredrick Ulrickson, section 4; J. Ulrickson, section 4; Henry Johnson, section 7; B. C. Johnson, section 7; Nels Nelson, section 7; N. A. Nelson, section 14; Ulrick Julson, section 14; Samuel Peterson, sections 15, 21, 23; O. E. Helberg, section 16; Peter Hanson, section 17; John Gustofson, section 17; Christian Michael, section 18; John Snicker, section 22; D. J. Johnson, section 22; Fred Zinne, sections 28, 30; T. Hendricks, section 30.

The first personal property assessment of Winfield township, 116-35, was made in 1879. Those assessed were: John Buxton, Wm. Buethe, F. Ditman, W. John Ericson, Andrew Ericson, Christ Esemann, John Gustafson, F. Heman, F. Hendricks, Gustaf Herman, Ole Helberg, Wm. Hodgdon, Ulrick Julson, D. Eric Johnson, D. John Johnson, Ole Julson, John Keter, Eric Lindquist, John Miller, Jr., John Miller, Sr., Wm. Morgan, N. A. Nelson, Samuel Peterson, E. Palmlund, John Snicker, C. Smith, T. Ulrickson, Jnl Ulrickson, Eric Wipp, F. Zinne.

WANG TOWNSHIP.

Wang township is located in the north-

western corner of Renville county. It embraces Congressional township 116, range 38. On the north is Stoneham township, in Chippewa county, on the east is Ericson township, in Renville county, on the south is Hawk Creek township, in Renville county, and on the west is Granite Falls township, in Chippewa county.

The surface of the township is a rolling prairie. Hawk Creek meanders for a distance almost on a level with the surrounding land, but in the southern part it cuts a sharply marked gorge which was originally heavily wooded.

The first settlers in Wang township came in 1867 and settled in the timberland along the course of Hawk creek southwest of the present location of the Vestre Sogn church. These settlers consisted of the three brothers, Christian O. Narvestad, Theodore Rongerud, and Hans Olson Grotvedt, and their two friends, Hans Gunderson and Christian Ingebretson.

The farthest up the creek was Narvestad. He was in section 28. Down the creek was Gunderson in the same section on the north side of the present road. Across the road from Gunderson was Grotvedt in section 33. Next down the creek was Ingebretson in section 33. Farthest down the creek was Rongerud. All these were on the east bank of the creek. Christian Olson came at the same time and settled just over the line in Hawk Creek township. Her claim was purchased by Torger Olson Skrukrud.

Peter Johnson Tanberg, according to his own statement, arrived in 1868 with his sister, Otilda, and settled in section 32.

L. J. Romo, according to his own statement came in November, 1869, and settled on section 30. With him came his wife and three oldest children, C. Wogstad and family, and L. Engebretson. There were then living in the neighborhood, according to him, C. Christopherson and H. Aasnas.

In 1870 quite a few settlers came to Wang township. Thomas Christopherson (Lerhol) settled in section 22, with his family. Late in life he retired and moved to Granite Falls, leaving his son on the farm. His wife died in November, 1915, and since then he has given up his home in Granite Falls and returned to Wang. Anders Thomason Kjersten settled with his family in section 28 and still lives there. Thomas Kjersten came the same year. Andrew E. Rogèn, with his family, settled in section 34, and lived there until some ten years ago, when he died. His wife died some two years ago. The family is still represented in the township. A son lives on the Helge Holen Evanson farm. Ole Halvorson Holen (Skalberg) and George Halvorson Holen (Skalberg) settled in section 8 and are still alive. Peter Iverson settled on section 8, and lived there until 1914, when he purchased school land in section 16, where he now lives. Thomas Henrikson settled in section 26, and died

some four years ago. His wife and son are on the home place. Endre K. Lien settled in section 6. At the age of ninety-four he is the oldest man in the township. He still retains much of his early vigor and even this winter is to be found chopping wood and enjoying outdoor exercise. His son, Knud Anderson, a bachelor, came at the same time, and died on the farm some fifteen years ago.

Iver Oie and Iver Nystuen, cousins, accompanied by P. N. Stenberg, settled in section 26. After taking their claim they went away, came again in the fall, and in the spring of 1871 came in with a large colony. Oie lives in Sacred Heart. Nystuen sold out and moved to Iowa. He now lives in Rice county, this state, some four miles from Northfield. Stenberg died on the farm and his widow lives in Sacred Heart. Ingeborg J. Osnes settled with her husband in section 30. He was drowned in the creek and she, after living here a short time and proving up on her land, moved away. Helge Evanson (Holen), at that time a single man, settled in section 14, and is still there. H. Ellingboe, a brother of Andrew T. Ellingboe, settled just over the line in Granite Falls township.

In the spring and summer of 1871 quite a few settlers came in. Among them may be mentioned a large colony from Goodhue county. Iver Oie and Iver Nystuen, with their friend P. N. Stenberg, who had been here in the spring and again in the fall of 1870, were the leaders of this colony, and the formation of the party was the result of their glowing descriptions. The colony started with ox teams, crossed the river at St. Peter, and in time reached Wang township. The members of the colony were Iver Oie, Iver Nystuen and P. N. Stenberg, all single; Tosten Olson Hamre, Siver Guttormson Strand, Ole O. Strand, Ove Strand, A. H. Weflen, Ingebret Thompson, George C. Heen and his father, Christopherson Gulbrandson Heen, all of whom were family men and Mrs. Mary Ostrom, afterwards Mrs. Mary Ostrom Boe, with her family.

Tosten Olson Hamre settled in section 14. He now lives in Sacred Heart and his son is on the farm. Sever Guttormson Strand settled in section 14, and is still there. Ole O. Strand settled in section 12 and is still there. Ove Strand settled in section 14. Andrew (Anders) Helgeson Weflen settled in section 24, and still lives on the same place. Ingebret Thompson settled in section 8. He died many years ago. His son Nels is now on the place. George C. Heen settled on section 8 and is still alive. His son is on the home farm. His father, Christopher Gulbrandson, settled on section 8, where he lived the remainder of his life. Mrs. Mary Ostrom afterward Mrs. Mary Boe, settled in section 24. She now lives in Minneapolis. Knud Thompson settled in section 22, and is still there. Ole Ellefson settled across

the creek from Christian Ingebretson. Gullick Helgeson (Weffen) settled on section 30 and died there. The widow lives in Granite Falls and the sons run the home place. Mathias Magnuson settled in section 32 and still lives there. John Thor settled in section 12, operated a harness shop in Sacred Heart for a while, and died in Todd county, this state. Ole Thomason (Grover) settled in section 22, and is still there. He was a veteran of the Civil war. John I. Johnson, later county commissioner and now treasurer of the township, settled in section 24. He came here in the spring and came here in the fall to remain. Isaac F. Olson, John P. Johnson and August Wibe settled in the same section. Mr. Olson still lives on the home place. Johnson sold out and went to the Dakotas in the early days. Wibe sold out and went to Washington in the early days.

Lars Klafsass and family settled in section 22. He died on the farm. The family is still represented in the township. Ole Nelson settled in section 10, and though he has since been away a part of the time, now lives on the same place. John Peterson (Chelgren) settled in section 10 and now lives in Okato. Ole E. Rogen settled in section 28, but later sold out and now lives in Canada.

Trond I. Ellingboe settled on section 4 in the fall of 1871, and lived there the remainder of his life. He died at the age of 89 years. Ole Erickson (Dambroten) settled in section 28 and still lives there. Erick Erickson (Viken) settled in section 12 and died on the place some twenty years ago. Lars J. Frickland settled in section 12 and lived there until ten years ago. He was ill for a time and wandered about from place to place until his death. The distribution of his estate has caused considerable difficulty. John Brown came over the northern line into the township with Christopher Hutchins, and took a claim in section 6. He never actually lived in the township. Ole K. Williams settled in section 12. He lives in North Dakota but still owns the farm. In 1872 he married Anna Simenson, this being the first marriage before the town was organized. Andrew and Hans Anderson settled in section 10. Andrew is still there, Hans having moved away and died in northern Minnesota. Trond Engebretson settled in section 8 and now lives in Maynard. With him came his father, Eng. Trondson. Christian Larson, Christopher Gunderson, Knute Weffen and Hans G. Berg also settled in the town this year. Johannes Gunderson settled just over the line. Hans G. Berg still lives on the homestead. Christian Larson died January 2, 1891.

Many of the settlers of 1872 came together and settled here at the same time. They started out from Goodhue county with ten yoke of oxen, household goods and supplies. Most of the party were single men, but a few had their families.

On the way they were joined by others, some bound for Renville county and some for other places. This great caravan presented a picturesque appearance as it wound its way over the intervening miles and was a sight which none who saw it will ever forget. The party crossed the Minnesota river at St. Peter, came on to Fort Ridgely and from there found its way to Wang. This party was similar to one that had arrived the previous year.

Christian Torgerson (Askerud) settled in section 28. He stayed there about thirty years and then went back to Norway where he died. Anders O. Elton settled in section 4, and now lives in North Dakota. Christopher Hutchins settled on section 6. When the family of Ole Christopherson Soine attempted to locate on that section Hutchins appeared and said that he had taken the land the previous year. The Soine family accordingly moved to section 10 and took a claim there. Mr. Hutchins moved onto the claim in section 6, in 1873, and became postmaster. He left a few years later. Ole O. Belsem settled in section 10 and sold out a few years ago. He is now in Ericson township. It is interesting to note that he and Andrew T. Ellingboe, who settled in section 4 where his father had previously located, came together with the caravan. Ellingboe furnishing a yoke of oxen and Belsem the wagon. Peder J. Myra and family settled on section 26. He died on the farm and the son, J. P. Myra, is still there. Knud Knudson (Viken) settled in section 14, and still lives there. Gunder O. Gjevve settled on railroad land in section 7, and died some six years ago on his homestead in section 24. His widow still lives there. William J. Smith settled in section 6, but stayed only a few years.

Ole L. Akerland settled in section 18, but moved away at an early date. His son, Ole Olson Akerland, settled in the same section and stayed a little longer than his father, and then moved to a farm north of Maynard, where he still lives. Lars Engebretson settled in section 20 and died a few years ago at Granite Falls. Jens Christopherson (Holter), Isaac Abrahamson and Jacob Hanson settled in section 20. Abrahamson and Hanson soon moved to Lac qui Parle county. Holter stayed a little longer than the other two and then followed them to Lac qui Parle county. He now lives in Rosseau county. Edgar Lampman settled in section 4, and later moved to Yellow Medicine county and died two years ago. Gilbert Johnson (Rude) settled in section 34. He sold out some four years ago and removed to Granite Falls. He is now dead. Halvor A. Skjeggerud settled in section 20 and lived many years on his farm before moving to Rosseau county, this state. C. A. Evenson settled in section 34 and still lives there. Carl J. Pettersen settled in section 28, but later moved to North Dakota where he died.

Elling Johuson settled in section 14, but did not stay very long. He died a few years ago in Maynard. Ole O. Grov settled in section 4 and still lives there. Ole H. Huseby settled in section 4, and lived there until some seven years ago, when he died. Christian Johnson (Wagstad) settled in section 20. He died some six years ago and his son Martin is now on the home place. Loritz Peterson (Brevig) settled in section 20, and died many years ago. Halvor Sibilrud settled in section 20, and only lived there a short time. Mathaes Nelson settled in the southeast quarter of section 36. He has sold his farm and now lives in Granite Falls. Amund G. Hagen settled in the northeast quarter of section 36. He has sold his farm and now lives in Sacred Heart. Ole Ellefson settled across the creek from Christian Engebretson. Ole Frykholm and Nels Nelson settled in section 26. Frykholm died February 18, 1889. Nelson sold out and went to Polk county, Minnesota. Thomas Hendrickson and Christopher Gulbrandson also settled in the town this year. Between the great influx of 1872 and the organization of the township in the summer of 1875 a number of settlers arrived. Thomas K. Weflen originally homesteaded in Ericsen township, but later settled in section 27, Wang. He now lives on school land in section 16. Knud Anderson settled in section 34. He was at that time an old man. He died in the early days and the widow of his son, Andrew K., is now on the home place. Christian Arestad settled on section 18, and moved to Dakota where he died. Lars Gunderson Klefsos settled in section 22. He died on the place and his daughter and her husband Knute Thompson now live there. Evert M. Strand settled in section 22 and died a few months ago. Hans Johnson (Bardel) settled in section 12. Later he moved to Elbow Lake, where he now lives. Sever Christopherson settled in section 6, he was killed while hauling hay and his widow still lives in the township. Some time before the organization Nils Norman settled in section 16, and now lives near Montevideo. A few early settlers came in after the organization. Jens Olson (Opdahl) settled in section 22. His son is now on the home place.

Wang was organized on July 28, 1875, and the first election was ordered to be held at the home of Elling Johnson, August 16, 1875. The first supervisors were Elling Johnson (chairman), Ole C. Soine and O. T. Grover. Nils Norman was elected clerk, but he did not qualify, so A. T. Ellingboe was appointed. Mr. Ellingboe has since continued to hold the office, thus making a record of forty years' service that is hard to excel. The first regular town meeting was held March 14, 1876. Officers were elected as follows: Supervisors, C. A. Evenson (chairman), Erick Viken and O. T. Grover; clerk, A. T. Ellingboe; assessor, Elling Johnson; treasurer, P. L. Brevig;

justice of the peace, K. K. Viken; constable, O. K. Williams. The present officers are: Supervisors, H. H. Olson (chairman), George E. Lien and L. K. Thompson; clerk, A. T. Ellingboe; treasurer, J. I. Johnson; assessor, T. T. Kjersten; constable, O. T. Haugen; road supervisor, H. A. Weflen. It is interesting that Mr. Ellingboe has not only served as town clerk since the town was organized, but has also been justice of the peace ever since 1877, and clerk of the school district No. 44 since it was organized.

The Hawk Creek Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company of Renville county, Minnesota, was organized May 25, 1881, with thirty-four members and an insurance value of \$49,052. It includes the towns of Hawk Creek, Sacred Heart, Ericson and Wang in Renville county, and the towns of Swede Forest and the Sioux Agency in Yellow Medicine county. The first officers were: Ole Fugleskjel, Paul Berg, C. A. Evenson, H. O. Agre and P. C. Brevig. The company now has a membership of over 700 farmers and an insurance value of about two million dollars. Its present officers are T. A. Nellerroe, president; I. C. Barnaale, secretary; A. T. Ellingboe, treasurer; J. I. Johnson, Fred Hendrickson, S. O. Skjeggeby and C. Knudson, directors.

A triple wedding in which the hearts of six young people of Wang were made happy was one of the notable events of the early days. The ceremony was performed by that beloved pioneer preacher, the Rev. John Berg, in a schoolhouse located on the land of P. C. Brevig in Hawk Creek township. The contracting parties were A. T. Ellingboe and Betsy Lien, daughter of Anders Lien; Ole Erickson Drambroten and Anna Stende, the daughter of Anders Stende, and Gullick Helgersen Weflen and Martha Johnson Tandborg, daughter of Peter Tandborg.

The New Lisbon postoffice was established in section 6, Wang, some time between 1873 and 1875. Christopher Hutchins was the first postmaster. He was followed by A. T. Ellingboe, who kept the office at his home in section 4, being postmaster for eighteen years, when rural route No. 1 out of Maynard was established. September 3, 1907, A. T. Ellingboe was appointed carrier. He did not, however, serve, and his son, Tron A. Ellingboe, succeeded. He served several years, and was succeeded by the present carrier, Hans Huseby, son of Ole Huseby, the pioneer.

There are three Norwegian Lutheran churches in the town of Wang, one on the southwest quarter of section 34, one on the northeast quarter of section 21, and one on the northeast quarter of section 9.

The first boy born in Wang was Robert Scott Hutchens, January 4, 1876; the second, Henry O. Grove, February 15, 1876. Mr. Grove still lives in Wang and has a farm. The first girl born in Wang was Marne Elton. She died April 28, 1877.

The second girl born was Anne Marie Holien, daughter of K. K. Holien, in section 14. Miss Holien still lives in the township. The first person that died in Wang, except for the drowning already mentioned, was Bertha Johnson, April 18, 1876. She was the mother of Mrs. George H. Holien, now of section 8. The first marriages in Wang were in 1874. The first three contracting couples were: O. K. Williams and Anne Simons; Helge Evenson and Ambjor Ellingboe; George C. Heen and Martha Kattvold. The first couple married in Wang church were Lars Brecke and Margaret Dolager, July 1, 1893; the second, Endre Holien and Bella Strand, July 3, 1893; the third, Andrew Brecke and Molla Strand, July 14, 1893. The first child baptized in Wang church was Randi C. Hovda, in September, 1892. The first person buried in Wang's cemetery was Sever Brecke, in October, 1891.

The first class confirmed in Wang's church consisted of Adolph Borstad, Gilbert Hougen, Knut O. Holien, Louise Dalager, Marit Soine, Susie Haugen and Bertha A. Ellingboe. This was in October, 1894. Adolph Borstad is a farmer in Tioga, North Dakota. Gilbert Haugen is a physician in Battle Lake, Minnesota. Knute O. Holien is a farmer in Erickson township. Louise Dalager is married and lives at Granite Falls. Marit Soine married T. S. Strand, a farmer in Wang township. Bertha Ellingboe married G. T. Strand of Tioga, North Dakota. Susie Haugen married and moved away.

(Note—The above history of Wang township has been prepared with the assistance of A. T. Ellingboe and John I. Johnson, and edited by both of these gentlemen. In some cases there is a difference of opinion as to when certain families arrived, some of the representatives of various families themselves being of varying opinions about their date of arrival. It is believed, however, that the foregoing dates are approximately accurate.)

WELLINGTON TOWNSHIP.

Wellington township embraces township 113-32. It is bounded on the north by Martinsburg township, on the east by Sibley county, on the south by Cairo township, and on the west by Bandon township.

The first settler in Wellington township was William Chalk, who came in 1868 and settled in the south half of the southwest quarter of section 32. Mr. Chalk was born in Ireland, had served in the Civil war and came here from Iowa, bringing his family. After living here some twenty years he went to Nebraska, where he died.

The next settlers were John Garrahy and Dennis Cready, brothers-in-law, who arrived in July, 1868. Garrahy settled in the north half of the southeast quarter of section 32. His family did not come until the next year. Cready brought his wife.

He settled in the northeast quarter of section 30.

Garrahy and Cready were natives of Ireland. They had come to Massachusetts in 1865, and there Garrahy left his wife and children. The two men, with Cready's wife, then came to Waseca county in this state, and while working on the railroad secured a tract of eighty acres of timber land. Coming from a country where the poor people owned no land, this seemed to them like great possessions, but after they had lived here for a while they found that they could not make a living on eighty acres of timber. So they traded their interest in the eighty acres for a yoke of oxen, and in the spring of 1868 started for Yellow Medicine county. Upon reaching the vicinity of Waverly in Wright county, they secured employment for a while. They soon began to realize, however, that if they were to locate on a claim for the winter, they must do so soon in order to gather winter hay for their oxen. So they started out to the westward. It is interesting to note that after reaching Renville county they camped in the timbers of what is now the village of Bird Island. They had no intention of locating in Renville county, but the pioneers whom they met persuaded them to take up their home in Wellington township. They lived in a dugout on Cready's land, and Garrahy occupied a part of his time in constructing a dugout on his own land ready to welcome his family in the spring. Grady is now in the St. Alexander Hospital in New Ulm. Garrahy died January 13, 1905.

John Garrahy, a pioneer, was born in Ireland, and came to Massachusetts in 1865. There he left his wife and children, and in 1867 came to Waseca county, this state. From there, with his brother-in-law, Dennis Grady, he came to Wellington township, stopping awhile in the vicinity of Waverly in Wright county. By his wife, Bridget Kearn, whom he married in England, where as a young man he spent eight years, he had four children: Kate, is the widow of John Smith of Nicollet county; James died many years ago; Mary is Mrs. Alois Kachelmeier of Nez Perc, Idaho; and P. W. lives on the home farm.

The first birth in Wellington township was that of John Chalk, July 3, 1870. The first death was that of Mrs. Margaret Murphy, July 3, 1870. A daughter of John Fahey was killed by the cyclone of July 15, 1881. The first school was taught in 1877 by Solomon Demmings.

Wellington township was organized June 4, 1873, and an election held June 17, at William Carson's house. William Carson was elected Chairman and Henry J. Barton clerk. The early records are lost. The present records date back to March 8, 1881. The officers now are: Supervisors, Herman Schmechel, Michael Ruddy and E. A. Fritz; town clerk, Henry Clobes;

treasurer, Anton Garey; assessor, Ernest Ludtke. The town hall was built about 1893. It is located in the center of the township. The town is named from the Duke of Wellington, the hero of Waterloo.

The first real estate assessment of Wellington, 113-32, was made in 1874. Those assessed were: Dennis Cready, section 30; Wm. Chalk, section 32; Willis W. Countryman, section 32; F. J. McCanna, section 32; Gust Grams, section 36. (Danford N. Barney is given as owning about 16 or 18 sections in this township.) In 1875, there were added to this list: Marshall Blodgett, section 2; Wm. Fahey, section 18; John Garrahy, section 32. In 1876 there was added to this list: John Murphy, section 34. In 1877 there were added to this list: John Hurst, section 4; Michael Murphy, section 28; Ellen Malone, section

30. In 1878 there were added to this list: Patrick White, section 34; James Larkin, section 28; Edward Hanna, section 6.

The first personal property assessment of Wellington township, 113-32, was made in 1874. Those assessed were: Aug. Borth, Henry Barton, Wm. Borth, Michael Coleman, Dennis Cready, Wm. Carson, Aug. Fritz, Wm. Fahey, Pat Fahey, John Fahey, Gus Grams, Ferdinand Herman, Ed. Hanna, James Hanna, Wm. Hawkins, Albert Ricker, Julius Ricker, Aug. Lindorf, James McKanna, Fred Schwarz, Julius Sell, Emil Rassel, James Ruddy, James Smith, Thos. Smith, Jas. Tompkins, John Tompkins, Patrick White, Martin Walsh, Charles Wyland, John Burgerson, John Blodgett, Frank Blodgett, John Garrahy, John Hurt, James Larkins, Patrick Lovell, John Murphy, Wm. Murray, Michael Murphy.

CHAPTER XLII.

PIONEER ASSOCIATION.

Formation of the Renville County Pioneer Association—Successive Meetings --Officers—Compiled from the Association's Records.

The Renville County Pioneer Association was organized in 1902 and the constitution adopted June 28 of that year. Its objection is to perpetuate the memory of the settlement of Renville county and the strenuous times of those primitive days by frequent social reunions; to preserve the history of those early days and the persons who bore the hardships and privations of that wild frontier life; to cultivate the spirit of good fellowship; and to hallow the memory of those early pioneers who blazed the way to civilization. The meetings were held annually on the second Tuesday of June or at other times at the call of the president. Any person who has lived in the county twenty-four years is eligible to membership.

L. A. Brooks was the first president and F. C. Greene the first secretary.

The officers for 1903 were: President, L. A. Brooks; secretary, David Benson; treasurer, N. G. Poore; historian, Mrs. J. S. Eaker; executive committee, Henry Ahrens, D. S. Hall, A. V. Rieke, P. O. Dosseth and C. H. Sherwood.

At the annual meeting of 1904 a committee was appointed to locate the lost graves of old settlers who were massacred in 1862. This committee consisted of Henry Ahrens, William Wickman and Millard N. White. The officers and executive committee for this year were the same as the year before with the exception that D. S. Hall became the historian.

The meeting of 1905 was an interesting one. The committee appointed to discover

the forgotten resting places of people murdered during the massacre reported five such graves and Millard White was appointed a committee to solicit aid from the Minnesota Historical Society and from the Renville county commissioners to suitably mark these hallowed spots. Charles Kenning, James McCormick and H. V. Poore were appointed a committee to secure appropriate badges for the association. A committee of three was appointed to act with the executive committee in gathering as much information as possible concerning the early settlers of Renville county. The records do not state who were appointed on this committee or what they ever did about the matter. The officers were the same as for the previous year.

The annual meeting for 1906 was held at Morton. On the opening day an address was given by State's Attorney E. T. Young at Riverside park, and the rest of the time was spent in social and athletic diversions. The second day an address was delivered by J. F. Jacobson of Lac qui Parle county, and then a business meeting was held. In the absence of the president, Brooks Henry Ahrens of Beaver Falls, presided. A committee was appointed for the purpose of locating more graves of massacred victims and to consider the matter of procuring means for marking them simply. The president in his message said: "I again take the liberty to urge that Renville county, which contributed such a large share to the history, not only of Minnesota, but especially of Minnesota valley, would be

fully justified in appropriating the means needed to mark the resting places of those who sacrificed life and all, to lay the foundation for the blessings and prosperity now enjoyed by the younger generation and a few pioneers, who are still left. It would seem though, that our state, which is spending so much money to perpetuate patriotic and deserving deeds in the past, could well afford to concede a trifle for the purpose of showing future generations where those early martyrs sleep." William Wichman succeeded L. A. Brooks as president; the other officers and executive committee remained the same.

The association held its 1907 meeting at Olivia. A committee appointed two years before at Morton reported that they had not been able to agree for a design for a suitable badge. Thereupon a design submitted by Charles Kenning was adopted as the sign and uniform badge of the association. It was reported by William Wichman that through the efforts of John A. Dalzell the legislature appropriated a small sum for the marking the graves of massacred victims, and a committee consisting of William Wichman and Charles Kenning was appointed to go before the county commissioners and arrange the matter with them. The officers remained the same and the executive committee remained the same with the exception that Charles Kenning succeeded David Benson as secretary and David Benson succeeded P. O. Dosseth as a member of the executive committee. At this meeting the members of the executive committee were first designated in the minutes as vice presidents in accordance with the original constitution. Up to this date the minutes referred to them as the executive committee.

The 1908 meeting was held at Sacred Heart June 18 and 19. The first day addresses were delivered by Assistant Attorney General Geo. W. Peterson and by Michael Dowling. Music was furnished by the Sacred Heart band and a game of baseball was enjoyed. The second day the business meeting was held in the forenoon. The committee on monuments reported that monuments had been placed to mark the graves of Mrs. R. S. Henderson and two daughters, Johial Wedge, Eugene White and Radner Earle. A manuscript prepared by Dr. E. W. Earle relating experiences during the Sioux massacre was presented by President Wichman. This was later printed for the old settlers' association under the direction of Asa M. Wallace of the Fairfax Standard. A reproduction appears elsewhere in this work. The officers and vice presidents were re-elected. After the business meeting addresses were delivered by J. F. Jacobson, then candidate for governor, and George Welch, state immigration commissioner.

The people of Fairfax entertained the association June 18, 1909. Charles Lam-

mers, who as a child was captured by the Indians, presented the association with a beautiful bouquet, and George Rieke, one of the few living persons who were adults at the time of the massacre, read some verses appropriate to the occasion written by himself in the German language. The same officers were elected, with the exception that A. V. Rieke was elected historian, with Asa M. Wallace as assistant. Addresses were delivered by A. V. Rieke, L. D. Barnard and others. Dr. Earle's pamphlet was reported finished and was distributed.

The 1910 meeting was held June 18 at Renville. The same officers were continued, with the exception that Charles H. Sherwood succeeded N. G. Poore as treasurer, and A. D. Corey succeeded Charles H. Sherwood as vice president from the fourth district. A. V. Rieke and Asa M. Wallace as historians presented a report. They declared that they had made every effort to get the pioneers to send in short sketches giving the data concerning their birth, marriage, size of family, time of locating in the state and county, important positions held if any, and such other matter as would be of interest to future generations. The report says: "We are very sorry to report that the request was not liberally responded to. Even the officers of the association have been negligent in their duty in this respect." Those who responded to the request sent out by Messrs. Rieke and Wallace in 1909 were A. D. Corey, B. C. McEwen, E. J. Butler, James Drake, Gunerus Peterson. These sketches are preserved with great care in the records of the association where they will be available for future generations.

The 1911 meeting was held at Bird Island June 2. An important feature of this meeting was the question raised by H. V. Poore and Charles H. Sherwood as to whether carnivals should be a feature of the old settlers' meetings and a committee was appointed, consisting of Charles Kenning, A. D. Corey, Charles H. Sherwood, Hamlin V. Poore and Darwin S. Hall to consider the matter. Darwin S. Hall was elected president and C. H. Nixon succeeded Mr. Hall as vice president from the first district. A committee consisting of J. Schorregge, Hamlin V. Poore, Charles Kenning, Charles H. Sherwood and A. D. Corey was appointed to consider places for future meetings. Stories of old times were told by the members.

Buffalo Lake was the host of the 1912 meeting. The old officers were continued. At this meeting the association was entertained by reminiscences by the old settlers. A committee appointed at a former meeting declared itself as opposed to permitting carnivals with "fake shows, wheels of fortune, other gambling devices, and indecent and immoral vaudeville street shows to appear at the same time and village as the meetings of the old settlers'

association." They declared, however, that the members of the association desired to "take an active part in all educational matters, including music of all kinds, and such athletic and moral sports that will tend to the general uplift of the members and their families both old and young to the point of education and usefulness of American citizens, to the end that this association may become a factor for good within the county."

At this meeting Governor A. O. Eberhart was present and delivered a very interesting address. A large platform for dancing was erected in the open air, the weather was fine, and as a host to the pioneers Buffalo Lake did itself proud.

June 13, 1913, the annual meeting was held at Olivia. The officers were re-elected, with the exception that Martin Matson succeeded A. V. Rieke as vice president from the second district, and Charles Waldow succeeded A. D. Corey as vice president from the fourth district. For the first time in the history of the association there was a contest as to location of the next meeting. Invitations were extended from Renville, Franklin, Hector and Danube. Renville received the most votes. This meeting was well attended. The people of Olivia threw open their homes to the pioneers, and did much to make the occasion pleasant, interesting and entertaining.

The association met at Renville June 18, 1914. A committee consisting of Darwin S. Hall, William Wichman and J. R. Landy was appointed to solicit data for a history of the early settlers and of the members of the association, who were urged to furnish them with information. The officers remained the same, with the exception that William Wichman succeeded Henry Ahrens as vice president from the third district. An address was delivered by Judge J. C. Nethway and in the evening a banquet was served by the citizens. A chautauqua was being held at Renville during this meeting, which detracted some from the attendance, but on the whole the meeting was a success. The opera house was placed at the

disposal of the association, while Mayor W. J. Ashley and Timothy O'Connor were at all times on the alert for the comfort and entertainment of the city's guests.

The meeting held at Hector June 25 and 26, 1915, was an interesting one. The election resulted in an entire change of officers as follows: President, William Wichman of Morton; secretary, F. G. Neller-moe of Buffalo Lake; treasurer, Tim. O'Connor of Renville; vice presidents, William B. Strom of Hector (First district); E. J. Butler, Hector (Second district); S. A. Greenslit, Morton (Third district); M. J. Dowling of Olivia (Fourth district); John Bakke of Hawk Cheek (Fifth district). Addresses were delivered by Governor Winfield S. Hammond and Lieutenant Governor J. A. A. Burnquist. Various committees were appointed: W. B. Strom, Charles N. Nixon, A. O. Allen to thank the speakers; David Benson, F. G. Neller-moe and Charles Kenning to thank the people of Hector; W. B. Strom, E. J. Butler and Charles H. Hopkins to thank the retiring officers, and William Wichman, S. A. Greenslit and F. G. Neller-moe to purchase tent suitable for annual meetings. Another committee consisting of Darwin S. Hall, Charles H. Hopkins and David Benson was appointed to co-operate and advise with the parties now at work in the preparation of a history of Renville county. A large tent, pitched in the principal street, well ventilated by leaving the side walls low so one could easily look out, was a new feature, introduced for the first time, by Hector, at this meeting. Easy chairs, rockers, lounges, rugs, with tables, lemonade and cigars, made it a cool and comfortable place to rest as well as ideal for talks and business meetings. Mayor A. O. Allen, Hon. C. H. Nixon, W. B. Strom and others made every pioneer and visitor feel that they were welcome and right at home, and it was the consensus of opinion of those present, that Hector had discovered numerous satisfactory ways for the comfort and happiness of their guests.

CHAPTER XLIII.

MONUMENTS AND MARKERS.

Birch Cooley Monument—Birch Cooley Tablets—Redwood Ferry Monument—Faithful Indians' Monument—Captain Marsh Monument—Friendly Chippewas' Monument—Fort Ridgely Monument—Muller Monument—Henderson Monument—Earl Monument—Schwandt Monument—Renville County Martyrs.

Rich as Renville county is in historic tradition, sanctified as her soil has been by the blood of martyrs, notable as her territory is as the scene of some of the most stirring events in Minnesota history, it is fitting that many hallowed spots, here and there, should be marked with permanent marble and granite, suitably inscribed as a memorial to the past and an inspiration to the future.

The Minnesota Valley Historical Society Markers. Charles D. Gilfillan was for many years interested in the history of the great Sioux Outbreak in the Upper Minnesota valley. As attorney for many of the settlers that lost property by the Indians he recovered for them from the United States annuity fund large sums. His commissions for this work amounted to some \$160,000. He and Major Return I. Holcombe, the Minnesota Valley historian, were friends since young manhood, and Mr. Gilfillan furnished the historian with desk room in his office. In 1898 the two men discussed the marking of historic sites in the Minnesota valley, and Mr. Gilfillan declared that he would gladly spend \$10,000 to identify and permanently mark such spots. Mr. Gilfillan then established the Minnesota Valley Historical Association, appointed its officers, and under its name, with himself as president and Return I. Holcombe as historian and agent, started to put his plans in operation. The historian got the necessary bill through the legislature, selected the sites, let the contracts, prepared the necessary historical material, issued booklets, and the like. A number of monuments and markers were erected, including the splendid Friendly Indian monument. Mr. Gilfillan's death in December, 1902, stopped the further work he had been contemplating. At the time of his death he had started plans for a monument costing \$3,000 or more, a huge granite pyramid, to mark the actual battle ground of Birch Cooley.

Birch Cooley Tablets. Upon and about the battlefield of Birch Cooley the Minnesota Valley Historical Society has placed several monuments or markers, which serve to identify important points of the battle ground. The site of this hallowed ground is about two and one-half miles east and north of the present village of

Morton, in Renville county, on the west side of the great ravine called Birch Cooley.

The proper name of this ravine is Birch Coulee or Birch Conlie, but it has been corrupted to Birch Cooley, the official name of the township, and that spelling is used throughout this work.

At the time of the battle the ground was virgin prairie. Half a mile down the coulee was the cabin and claim of Peter Pereau, a Frenchman, who had been killed and his family taken prisoners. A number of other settlers living farther down the stream had been killed and some of their houses burned. The land where the battle was fought belonged to the government and was subsequently entered and occupied by Wm. Weiss, from whom it was purchased by the state, in 1896. When Mr. Weiss entered the land, in the sixties, the rifle pits dug by the beleaguered soldiers, the bones of the horses killed, and other evidences of the fight were plainly visible.

A marker indicating the position of Mankato's band during the battle, stands between the high sheltering banks of the Birch coulee. Another marker indicates the position during the battle of the Indians under Gray Bird, and also the point where they made their last stand before retreating. West of the former corral or encampment was the mound behind which Big Eagle's band fought. It has been plowed over so frequently that it has nearly disappeared.

The Faithful Indians' Monument. In December, 1899, the Minnesota Valley Historical Society completed the erection of a monument in recognition and commemoration of the conduct and services of the Indians who were truly loyal and faithful to the whites during the great Sioux war of 1862. It is believed that this is the only structure of the kind ever erected in the United States up to that time. This society resolved to honor the memories and services of the truly loyal Indians by the erection of a monument in the country which was the scene of their good deeds and noble conduct. It was concluded to place this commemorative structure on the state's ground whereon the Birch Cooley monument, erected in 1894, stands. The state legislature, in the session of 1899,

by a special act (Chap. 2, Laws of 1899), gave the required permission and the structure was completed in December of that year. The contractors were Honner, Hosken & Co., of the Redwood Granite Works, Redwood Falls, and the contract itself was most intelligently and artistically, as well as most faithfully, executed.

The structure is 52 feet in height and built wholly of granite from local quarries, the greater part coming from the granite quarries at Redwood Falls. An appropriate inscription tells its purpose. The surrounding ground has been furnished with substantial iron seats for the accommodation of visitors and the site is a most commanding one, giving a good view for miles up and down the Minnesota valley of the historic locality.

The society made three requirements for those whose names were to be cut in the granite die of the commemorative monument, making the list a roll of honor in all respects. 1. The subjects were to be full blooded Indians. 2. They were to have been truly loyal to the whites throughout the entire period of the outbreak, from its inception, on August 18, 1862, until the close of that year. 3. They were to have actually, by personal effort and in a practical manner, saved the life of at least one white person.

After careful and thorough investigation the society decided that the names of but six Indians, four men and two women, were, at that time, entitled to the distinction of a position in the monument's inscription. The claims of scores of others were presented, but in the society's opinion they did not meet the full requirements demanded. They either were not Indians of full blood, or they were not truly loyal throughout the war, or they did not directly save the life of a white person; indirect service could not be accepted. The names selected were these:

Am-pa-tu To-ki-cha (Other Day) known as John Other Day; Mah-za-koo-te-manne (Iron that Shoots Walking) known as Little Paul; To-wan-e-ta-ton (Face of the Village), known as Lorenzo Lawrence; A-nah-wang-manne (Walks Alongside), known as Simon; Mah-kah-ta Hei-ya-win (Traveling on the Ground), known as Mary Crooks, and Snahnah (Tinkling), later Mrs. Maggie Brass of Santee Agency, Neb. Snahnah's name was not, however, placed on the monument at that time. After her death her name was added to the others.

The story of the services rendered the whites by these noble Indians is told in full in a pamphlet by Major Return I. Holcombe, entitled "Monuments and Tablets of the Minnesota Valley Historical Society."

The Redwood Ferry Monument. The ground where Captain John Marsh and his company were ambushed was at and about the ferry landing on the north side

of the Minnesota river, opposite the Lower Agency. From the landing on the south side two roads had been graded up the steep high bluff to the Agency buildings, and from the north landing the road stretched diagonally across the wide river bottom to the huge corrugated bluffs, two miles or more away, at Faribault's Hill. The hill was so named for David Faribault, a mixed-blood Sioux, and a son of old John Batiste Faribault, and who lived at the base of the hill. He and his family were made prisoners by the Indians and held during the outbreak. At Faribault's Hill the road divided, one fork leading up the hill and over the prairie to the eastward and northeast, running along the crest of the bluff to Fort Ridgely. The other followed the base of the bluff down the river. There were two or three houses between the ferry landing and the bluff, and at the landing itself was a house. All about the landing on the north side the ground of the main ambush was open; it is now covered with willows and other small growths of the nature of underbrush. A few rods to the northward, however, is a cultivated field.

To commemorate and identify the scene of the ambush the Minnesota Valley Historical Society has erected a substantial granite monument at the site of the old-time ferry landing, at the point, as nearly as could be determined, where Captain Marsh and his men were first fired upon. It is located on U. S. lot 3, section 5, south Birch Cooley. The site is now overgrown with small willow and other trees and the monument stands in a thicket. It is of sufficient proportions and so well set that it will endure for a century. The river frequently overflows its banks at this point, but the structure is so well placed on a secure foundation that it cannot be washed away. The inscription reads: "At and near this spot Capt. John Marsh and twenty-four men were ambushed and killed by Sioux Indians, Aug. 18, 1862. Also Peter Quinn, U. S. Interpreter."

The Birch Cooley Monument. The legislature of 1893 made an appropriation for a monument to commemorate the Battle of Birch Cooley. A commission was appointed, consisting of Charles D. Gilfillan, of Redwood county; Dr. J. W. Daniels, of Northfield, who was surgeon of the Birch Cooley expedition; William H. Grant, a cousin of Captain H. P. Grant, and who as a citizen soldier participated in the battle, and S. C. Arbuckle, who had been a member of Captain Grant's company. Later Dr. A. G. Stoddard, R. B. Henton and Jerry P. Patten, all of Morton, were added to the commission.

The commission spent many days in discussing the site. Gradually for many reasons the sentiment of the members seemed to favor a site overlooking the village of Morton, the site being a part of the old

fair grounds. Space does not permit a discussion of these reasons.

Commissioner Jerry P. Patten says:

"The original intention of the commission was to place the monument on the site of the corral where the brave defense was made. But the owner of the site placed a price on his land which the commission believed to be too high. Captain H. P. Grant and S. C. Arbuckle, both of whom had taken part in the Battle of Birch Cooley, favored a site on a commanding crag overlooking Morton, over which the Indians were chased after the battle. This point, a part of the old fair grounds, is visible for miles around, and from its brow can be seen the bottoms and prairies where so many thrilling scenes of the Massacre were enacted. I consulted various survivors of the battle, and all seemed to favor the fair grounds site. State legal authorities declared that a monument under the act of the legislature need not be erected exactly on the corral but could be erected on any spot where any part of the battle was waged. The commission, therefore, proceeded to erect the monument, the site being presented by the Fair Grounds Association and the village of Morton agreeing to give the tract perpetual care."

When the commission met to decide upon the final location of the monument, Dr. Daniels and W. H. Grant voted that it should stand on the battle ground; the other five commissioners voted that it be placed on the fair grounds. Upon directing that the name (Capt. H. P. Grant be placed on the die as the commander, only Dr. J. W. Daniels, the surgeon of the expedition, voted no. He said he had been directed by Colonel Sibley to report to Major Brown and receive his orders; that he did so from first to last, without any intimation from any one that Captain Grant was the commander.

"Gentlemen," said he to the other members, "you are falsifying history and doing a cruel injustice to a brave and good man, Major Brown. I dressed the severe wound he received during the battle; I rode with him on the march, and I slept in his tent, and from these circumstances, and Colonel Sibley's express and personal directions, I know that Major Brown was the commander of all of us. I cannot serve any longer with you." Whereupon he withdrew from the conference and never thereafter met with the commissioners or had anything to do with the monument affair.

Even before the dedication of the Birch Cooley monument there was some dissatisfaction among survivors of the battle and other citizens over the selection of its site. They opposed placing the structure anywhere else but on the field of the battle which it was to memorialize. It was declared that a site two miles distant from where the fight actually occurred was un-

suitable to preserve the actual scene of that fight.

When it became known that the name of Capt. Hiram P. Grant was to be placed on the monument as commander of the white forces in the battle, indignant protests were made against the dedication of the monumental shaft until the alleged error should be corrected. It was asserted that all the authoritative records proved that Maj. Joseph R. Brown was the real **commander of the whites**; that he was appointed by General (then Colonel) Sibley to command the expedition; that he made a report as such commander; that Capt. Joseph Anderson, the captain of one of the two companies composing the white forces, reported to Major Brown; that these reports were printed, along with other official matter, and the fact well established that Major Brown was the commander-in-chief of the Birch Cooley expedition and Captain Grant was a subordinate commander under him. Several years ago Captain Grant, in a printed story of the battle, acknowledged that when he presented his official report after the battle, he was told by Colonel Sibley to present the report to the commander, Major Brown, and that in his indignation he tore his report up rather than present it to Major Brown.

The people of Morton were much pleased that they were to have the monument as a sort of decoration or embellishment of their fair grounds. On the day of its dedication, September 3, 1894, they gave the visitors an excellent dinner and a cordial welcome to their village, expressing their appreciation of the favor done them by the state in placing the memorial structure in their midst. The village council formally agreed to an ordinance (or resolution) pledging the corporation to maintain it in proper condition so long as it remained in the village. A site of about one acre had been deeded to the state.

The services at the dedication were stormy and unpleasant. Such eminent public speakers as ex-Governor William G. Marshall, Capt. Joseph Anderson (who commanded one of the companies in the battle), and Hon. Charles E. Flandrau denounced the placing of the monument on the fair grounds instead of on the battle ground and condemned the placing of Captain Grant's name as the commander as a gross injustice and a falsification of history. Captain Grant mildly defended the action of the commission in both instances, saying, among other things, "So help me God, I was the commander, for Joe Brown did not give me any orders."

Unfortunately the monument itself was faulty. In placing the stones composing the die a botch job was done. These stones bore the names of those officers, soldiers and citizen-soldiers that took part in the battle, killed, wounded and survivors. These names were in columns running

from top to bottom. One stone with its list of survivors was placed over part of a column of the list of the killed. The result was that some of the attendants—Judge James G. Egan, of St. Paul, among them—found themselves listed among the killed! The monument was afterward taken down and put together again and the error corrected. The expense of making the correction was \$300 and was borne by Hon. C. D. Gilfillan, chairman of the commission. Then the names of two citizens, Carlton Dickinson and S. R. Henderson, who were killed, were left off the inscription, as were the names of two soldiers that were in the fight. The incident was mortifying and displeasing.

Those who opposed the monument site and the retention of the name of Captain Grant on the monument as the commander continued their protest. Major Brown had died in 1870, and, representing his family and certain ex-soldiers, R. I. Holcombe, of St. Paul, was given charge of a bill presented in the legislature of 1895 to remove the monument from the fair grounds to the battlefield, and to change the inscription so that it would show the name of Major Brown as in general command of the white forces in the battle, with Captains Grant and Anderson as his subordinates.

The bill was thoroughly investigated by a committee of five former Minnesota soldiers from each house. One of these, Senator Iltis, of Carver county, had been a member of the Sixth Minnesota (Grant's former regiment), and was present in the battle of Birch Coulee. The committee held meetings and received and considered much testimony. Finally they reported unanimously in favor of the bill, and it was passed without dissent in the senate and with only two votes against it in the house. The Grant partisans, with Gen. John B. Sanborn as their attorney, appeared before Governor Clough and asked him to veto the bill, but the governor said: "The monument should stand on the battlefield, where the blood ran and the men were killed, even if it is a mudhole. As for the commander, the committee went thoroughly into that, and I believe their conclusion is correct."

The law is Chapter 376 of the General Laws for 1895 (beginning on page 776), and, briefly stated, prescribes that the monument shall be removed "to a portion of the corral or actual battle ground whereon was fought the battle of Birch Coulee." (The act of 1893, appropriating \$2,500 for the erection of the monument, provided that the structure should stand "on the land on which was fought the battle of Birch Coulee.") The removal act of 1895 also provides that the inscriptions on the monument be changed "so as to conform to and with the truths of history * * * and in particular said inscriptions shall show the established facts that Major Jo-

seph R. Brown, of the state militia, was in general command of the state's forces."

The removal was placed in charge of Adjutant General (then General) Hermann Muehlberg, who appointed R. I. Holcombe, who had charge of getting the last law passed, as his agent for the work. The agent decided that six acres should be purchased by the state as a new site for the monument and for a park surrounding. He selected the tract, had it surveyed, and negotiated with the owner, a Mr. Weiss. The owner wanted \$100 an acre for the land, which the agent deemed an exorbitant price and under the law brought condemnatory proceedings. The jury of award allowed Mr. Weiss \$80 per acre and he appealed to the district court. Judge Weber heard the case at Redwood Falls and rendered judgment sustaining the award. Thereupon the state secured title to the six acres.

The monument was never moved nor the inscriptions changed. The year following the passage of the law (1896) was presidential and gubernatorial election year. It was declared that political motives had something to do with the governor's delay in the matter. So nothing was done about the matter for two years, the appropriation of \$1,200 lapsed, and the money was turned back into the state treasury.

Since the erection of the monument various suggestions have offered as to the possibility of making the inscription legible. Owing to the nature of the stone, the quality of its finish, and the method of cutting, the inscription can be read only after long and careful scrutiny, and probably not a single person since the day of the dedication has taken the trouble necessary to read the names of those men whose deeds the monument perpetuates. Probably in time some method will be discovered by which the inscriptions will be made easier reading to the casual observer, and by that time the correction regarding the commanding officer will doubtless be made.

The Henderson Monument is located on the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 14, Beaver. It is a granite shaft on a base of similar material. This is erected in memory of Mrs. R. H. Henderson, her two daughters, Jehiel Wedge and Eugene White, who were killed during the Indian Massacre. It marks the spot where the bodies of these people were buried. Some time after the Massacre, Fred Thies accidentally shot himself in the Minnesota bottoms. He was buried at the same spot and his name likewise appears on the monument.

The Earl Monument is located on the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 12, Beaver. It is erected in honor of Radner Earl, a boy, who gave up his life defending his father, and marks the place where he is buried. Soon after the Massacre the father and other mem-

bers of the family erected on the spot a monument on which was a lamb, looking in the direction in which the enemy came on that fatal morning in August. After the father died, this monument was moved and placed near the father's burial place in Iowa. The spot then remained unmarked until the present monument was erected. It is worthy of note that the soil above the devoted boy has never been disturbed since the day the body was buried. Though it is in a cultivated field, the plowmen had left it untouched, until with the years the drifting dust and annual vegetation has caused a mound to form, on the top of which the monument is located.

The **Schwandt Monument** was erected August 18, 1915, near the spot where the Schwandt family were murdered in 1862. The story of the wiping out of this family is told elsewhere by the surviving daughter. The monument bears the following inscription: "Erected by the State of Minnesota, 1915, in Memory of the Martyrs of Civilization, Johan and Christina Schwandt and their children, Frederick and Christina; John Walz, Karolina Schwandt Walz, John Frass; Murdered by Sioux Indians, Aug. 18, 1862."

The monument was dedicated August 18, 1915, in the presence of many of the state's most distinguished men. Dr. Warren Upham, archaeologist of the Minnesota State Historical Society, said:

"In the dedication of this monument telling of the awful tragedy of race hatred and massacre which befell a German family of pioneers here fifty-three years ago, let us not forget the bright flower of a life long friendship which blossomed above their graves, gladdening the life of a rescued survivor of that family and the life of the kind Dakota woman, Snahnah, her rescuer.

"The Historical Society of this state, in its published volumes, preserves to all coming time the narrations of Mary Emilia Schwandt Schmidt and Snahnah, children of parents and of races who met in mortal conflict, the one a captive German girl and the other a bereaved Dakota mother. They loved each other with affection that may be likened to that of David and Jonathan three thousand years ago.

"Can we learn something from this—does it even shed forth a ray of hope that when the present direful world war shall be ended with treaties of peace, it may be the beginning of trust and helpfulness, of mutual respect and friendship, between the now warring nations?

"Till the war drum throbs no longer,
And the battle flags are furled
In the parliament of men
And the federation of the World."

The original move toward erecting the Henderson and Earl monuments was made by the Old Settlers' Association, who appointed William Wichman a committee of one to take the matter in charge. With

the assistance of John A. Dalzell, a bill was put through the legislature in 1907, appropriating \$200 for the total expense, and placing the matter in charge of the county commissioners. The county commissioners delegated the task to Mr. Wichman. He served entirely without recompense, and achieved results which could scarcely have been expected had more than twice the amount appropriated been expended. Mr. Wichman was also the prime mover in the erection of the Schwandt monument. It has been said by prominent officials that never has the state received more for its money than in the case of these three monuments.

The Fort Ridgely Monuments. The large Fort Ridgely monument is described elsewhere in this work. On the brow of the hill near the Fort Ridgely cemetery are the Marsh, Muller and Loyal Chippewa monuments, while in the cemetery near by are many gravestones marking the last resting place of many an heroic character.

The Captain Marsh Monument at Fort Ridgely reads as follows: "In Memory of Capt. John Marsh, First Sergeant Russell H. Findley, Serg't Joseph S. Besse; Privates Charles R. Bell, Edwin F. Cole, Charles E. French, John Gardner, Jacob A. Gehring, John Holmes, Christian Joerger, Durs Kanzig, James H. Kerr, Wenzel Kusda, Henry McAllister, Wenzel Norton, Moses P. Parks, John W. Parks, John Parsley, Harrison Phillips, Nathaniel Pitcher, Henry A. Shepherd, Nathan Stewart, Charles W. Smith of Co. B, died Aug. 18, 1862. Private Mark M. Greer, Co. C, died Aug. 22, 1862. Fifth Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Peter Quinn, U. S. Interpreter, Killed at Redwood Ferry, Aug. 18, 1862." The face of the monument bears the words: "Erected by the State of Minnesota, 1873."

The men are buried in two trenches. From north to south on the west side the bodies are those of Nathan Stewart, Jacob A. Gehring, Charles E. French, Charles R. Bell, First Sergeant R. H. Findley, Capt. John S. Marsh, Sergeant S. A. Trescott, Corporal J. S. Besse, Edwin F. Cole, John Gardner and Interpreter Peter Quinn. From north to south on the east side the bodies are those of Nathaniel Pitcher, Harrison Phillips, John Parsley, John W. Parks, Moses P. Parks, Wenzel Norton, James H. Kerr, Durs Kanzig, Christian Joerger, John Holmes and Charles W. Smith. The bodies of Wenzel Kusda, Henry McAllister and Henry A. Shepherd were never found but their names are on the monument, as is that of Mark M. Greer, of Co. C, killed at the battle of Fort Ridgely.

The Muller Monument. Not far from the Marsh monument at Fort Ridgely is the monument of Mrs. Eliza Muller, whose last request be that she be buried at Fort Ridgely. The inscription reads: "The State of Minnesota to the Memory of Mrs. Eliza Muller, 1877. Her valor and her de-

votion to the care of the sick and wounded soldiers and refugees during and after the Sioux Indian Outbreak of 1862 will forever be cherished in the hearts of a grateful people.—Mrs. Eliza Muller, wife of Dr. Alfred Muller, born in Berne, Switzerland, April 21, 1831, died Sept. 26, 1876.—Thy Mission on Earth was Unbounded Charity, Thy Reward is Eternal Peace."

The Chippewa Monument at Fort Ridgely bears this inscription: "Erected by the State of Minnesota in Recognition of, and to Commemorate the Loyal and Efficient Services Rendered to the State by Chief Mou-Zoo-Mau-Nee, and the Chippewa Indians During the Sioux Outbreak and the Civil War."

RENVILLE COUNTY MARTYRS.

The following partial list of those killed in Renville county during the Massacre is from the pen of Marion P. Satterlee, who has done much to preserve the facts concerning the Indian outbreak. To Mr. Satterlee's list have also been added a number of other names by the editor of this history. This list does not include the casualties at the battle of Bird Cooley and the ambuscade at Redwood Ferry.

Urius Andermack. Mentioned in Flora church records as one of the Renville county martyrs.

John Boelter. John was massacred at Middle Creek. The wife fled to the woods with two infant daughters; the youngest died of starvation and exposure. Another child was carried to safety by Michael Boelter, a brother-in-law.

Mrs. Michael Boelter and children were killed at Middle Creek. The face of the oldest was shot away, one was shot and thrown into a pit. The youngest was beaten to death by pounding it over something. It is also stated that the parents of Michael, or his wife, were killed, but the accounts are incoherent.

John Buehro. Killed not far from Fort Ridgely. His story is told elsewhere in this work. He had found safety in the fort, but was sent by his wife back to their cabin to get her green silk dress and household goods.

Gottlieb Busse and family were killed at Middle Creek. Gottlieb was shot with baby Bertha in his arms; Wilhelmina, the mother, and two-year-old Caroline were killed the same way; Augusta, five, was shot down alone. Minnie, August and Amelia were taken prisoners and rescued at Camp Release. Minnie is author of "Captured by the Indians." August, it is claimed, was so angered when the Indian who killed his parents was not hung with the others at Mankato, that he afterward made a business of hunting Indians and was probably killed at the Custer massacre. The name is sometimes spelled Buce and frequently in other ways.

Andrew Bahlke was killed near Birch Cooley. He was the brother of Mrs. Marie

Frörup and was shot by the Indians while remonstrating with them about killing his dog.

Charles Blair, captured with the Brown family, escaped to Fort Ridgely, but being in poor health died from the effect of the exposure soon afterward.

Mark Brooks, sixteen years old, was shot by Indians while carrying dinner to his uncle, David McConnell.

William and John Carrothers, sons of David Carrothers, were killed at Beaver Creek while trying to escape with a party of settlers.

Charles Clausen and Frederick, his son, were killed near Birch Cooley. Mrs. Frederick and her two infant daughters were captured and were rescued at Camp Release.

—Cruer and wife were killed at Beaver Creek. G. Cruer, aged eleven, and John Cruer, aged nine, boys, escaped to Fort Ridgely.—Fort Ridgely records.

Peter Eindenfeldt (or Inefeldt) was killed near Birch Cooley. He was stabbed with a butcher knife, which was left in his breast. His wife, nee Zitlaff, and child were rescued at Camp Release.

Radnor Earle, son of Jonathan W., aged fifteen years, was killed at Beaver Creek.

Balthasar Eisenrich was killed near Birch Cooley. His wife and five children were at Camp Release.

Benedict Eune was killed near Birch Cooley, on the road to Fort Ridgely. His son was taken captive and rescued at Camp Release.

August Frass and son, John Frass, were killed with the Schwandt party at Beaver Creek.

—Frace, residing near the Brown place, on the Sacred Heart, was killed. His wife and two children were found at Camp Release.

Mrs. Marie Frörup, a widow, with her son John and daughter Louisa, and her brother, Andrew Bahlke, lived on the hill in the southeast quarter of section 25, Beaver. The Indians came along and killed the dog. Andrew Bahlke came into the yard and scolded the Indians, whereupon they shot and killed him instantly. Mrs. Frörup started to run. She was shot in the back, her flesh being filled with buckshot. In time she made her way to Fort Ridgely. John and Mary were captured.

Emil Grundman, wife and three children, in the Flora settlement. The children were burned in the Krieger home at Beaver Creek.

Max Haaek (also spelled Heck and Hack), killed near Camp township. His widow afterward kept the hotel at Three Mile Creek, in Camp township.

John and Patrick Hayden were killed at Beaver Creek.

S. R. Henderson, wife and two infant daughters. Mrs. Henderson was burned alive with the two and a half year old child, and the nine months old baby was hacked

to pieces and thrown into the fire piece-meal, near Birch Cooley.

Dr. Philander D. Humphrey, physician at the agency; wife, Susan Ames Humphrey, and two children, killed at a cabin in Birch Cooley while fleeing to the fort. A son, John Ames Humphrey, a boy of twelve, escaped.

Ernest Houf, also wife and two little girls. Overtaken by Indians and wife killed in wagon; husband while trying to run with the children was shot and the children kicked to death, at Beaver Creek. Flora church records say that there were two more children killed in this family.

——— and ——— Horning, sons of August, one and three years old, burned in the Krieger home at Beaver Creek. Were left for dead but were only stunned; were with the Paul Kitzmann party attacked on the nineteenth.

Rosina Heining and three children. Mentioned in the Flora church records.

W. Inerfeld (may be Inefeldt or Eindenfeldt), no particulars known. Name given in Flora Evangelican Association church as having been killed during the Massacre.

J. H. Ingalls and wife, killed near the Brown house in Sacred Heart. Four children were captured. Two of them, girls, twelve and fourteen years, found at Camp Release. Two little boys were taken by Little Crow and their fate is still shrouded in mystery.

Henry Keartner was killed near Birch Cooley. Wife escaped to Fort Ridgely.

Patrick Kelly was killed at Beaver Creek.

Paul Kitzmann, wife, daughter Wilhelmina and son Gustave. All except the baby boy killed near Middle Creek, while endeavoring to escape. Gustave was slaughtered while in captivity, as he cried and annoyed the Indians. A son, Ludwig, now known as Louis, was a prisoner at Camp Release.

Frederick Krieger and infant, near Middle Creek. Of eight children six escaped, and one, Henrietta, was prisoner at Camp Release. The story of the wife Justina, is one of suffering and miraculous escape hardly equaled in history.

John Kockendorfer, wife and daughter Sarah killed at Beaver Creek. John Kockendorfer, a boy aged eleven; Rose Kockendorfer, a girl aged nine; Katie Kockendorfer, a girl aged seven, and Maggie Kockendorfer, aged five, escaped to Fort Ridgely.

William Lammers was killed at Cairo. Wife and two children at Camp Release. Later married to George Rieke.

John Lateau (called Latto and Sateau) was killed at Beaver Creek. Wife and four children escaped. Flora church records say one child was also killed.

——— Levant, wife, two daughters and a son killed at Beaver Creek. A. Levant, aged eleven, escaped to Fort Ridgely.—Fort Ridgely records.

John and Edward Wagner were killed near Birch Cooley.

Hubert Millier, generally known as Jacob Mauley. The brave ferryman who carried over fugitives till murdered at the Redwood ferry.

Gottlieb Manweiler was killed at Middle Creek. His wife, nee Lenz, escaped with her parents to Fort Ridgely. He was superintendent of the Sunday school.

Mrs. John Meyer (Caroline Zitlaff), at Middle Creek. Also three children. Husband escaped to Fort Ridgely.

Mrs. ——— Nichols and son of Flora township killed. A daughter, Henrietta, captured and rescued at Camp Release and rejoined her father at St. Peter.

David O'Connor, at Beaver Creek, near Magner's place.

——— Peco killed. One daughter taken by Indians. Wife and several children escaped to Fort Ridgely. The wife, E. Peco, is recorded as having been born at La Croix Creek in 1840. This was five years before La Croix settled there. She was probably a half-blood.

Peter Pereau (Paro), near Birch Cooley. Wife and a number of children escaped to Fort Ridgely.

——— Piguar, near Birch Cooley.

Heinrich Rieke died of fright at Fort Ridgely.

Eusebius Reyff, wife, one son, Benjamin, and daughter Annie were killed at Beaver Creek.

John Roesler, wife and two children were killed at Middle Creek. Mentioned in Flora church records.

Friedrich Roesler. Mentioned in the Flora church records.

John Rosbe (Rusby), wife and two children. Killed in Renville county bottoms.

Ole Sampson and two children were killed between Beaver Creek and Fort Ridgely. Sampson was shot, two children were burned to death in the wagon, from which Mrs. Sampson, with the baby in arms, leaped and escaped.

John Sateau. (See John Lateau.)

Johan Schwandt, wife Christina, son Frederick, aged six, daughter Christina, four years old, daughter Karolina Schwandt Walz, son-in-law John Walz, and John Frass. Son August escaped; daughter Mary was taken captive with the Patoille party. At Beaver Creek.

Rev. Christian L. Seder was killed at Middle Creek. He was the pastor of the German Evangelical Association church.

John Sieg and wife, nee Zitlaff, and three of four children were killed at Beaver Creek.

——— Sitzton and family (number not known, were killed at Beaver Creek.

Thomas Smith was killed near Birch Cooley, Aug. 18, 1862. Mistook a party of Indians for white men and approaching them was shot down. His wife and young children escaped to Fort Ridgely.

William Smith and family, except daughter Minnie, about four years old, at Middle Creek. She was carried several miles by

August Schwandt, when he became exhausted and left her at a house, promising to bring help. She was afterward taken by the Indians and was a prisoner at Camp Release. She died a day or two after reaching Fort Ridgely. Flora church records say the spelling of the name is Schmidt and that Schmidt, his wife and two children were killed.

Frederick Schmidt killed after a desperate fight with the Indians near Fort Ridgely. Had left the fort with John Buehro to get Buehro's household goods.

William Taylor, colored citizen of St. Paul; dead body found by burial party, September 1, between Fort Ridgely and the ferry. He is mentioned in Grant's report, page 148, Indian outbreak, by Daniel Buck.

Mrs. Louis Thiele, nee Haak, and child of four years, killed at Beaver Creek.

John Walz, wife Karolina, nee Schwandt, at Middle Creek, were killed August 18, 1862. This murder was most horrid, an unborn child being taken from the mother and was nailed to a tree while yet alive.

Jehial Wedge, on section 14, township 113, range 35, at Beaver Creek. With the Earle party.

Mrs. Carl Witt, near Birch Cooley, was killed near that place. The husband and several children escaped to Fort Ridgely.

Gottlieb Zable was killed at Beaver Creek with the Paul Kitzmann party; his wife escaped.

Michael and Mary (Junis) Zitlaff were killed at Middle Creek.

Eugene White was killed at Beaver Creek with the Earle party.

John Zimmerman and his sons, John and Gottfried, were killed at Beaver Creek. His wife, Mary, blind, escaped with three children, the oldest seventeen and the youngest three.

John Zitlaff. Mentioned in the Flora church records.

At Birch Cooley. The following list of those killed, mortally wounded and severely wounded has been compiled by Major Return I. Holcombe, the Minnesota valley historian. In furnishing this list, the Major says: "According to this list there were twenty men killed and mortally wounded. There were also thirty-two men severely wounded, scratches not counted. Ninety-four out of the ninety-five horses were killed. All available authorities have been consulted, including the newspapers of the time. Heard's History (page 135) says, 'There were some twenty men killed or mortally wounded, and some sixty severely wounded, and over ninety horses killed.' Other accounts say twenty-two, and still others say twenty-three men were killed, and the number of wounded is given as from forty to sixty and sixty-five. Captain Grant say that twenty-two men were killed and sixty wounded, but his testimony concerning the battle is not reliable. The actual names are more convincing than any amount of figures would be."

Killed and mortally wounded: Co. A, Sixth Minnesota—Sergeants John Callege and William Irvine (mortally wounded), Corporal William M. Cobb, Privates George Calter, Cornelius F. Coyle (m. w.), Chauncey L. King, Henry Rouleau, William Russell, Henry Whetsler. Co. G, Sixth Minnesota—Sergeant Benjamin S. Tenny and Corporal Ferdinand C. W. Benneken. Co. A, Ninth Minnesota—Private Joseph Klein (m. w.). Captain Anderson's company, "Cullen Guards"—Sergeant Robert Baxter, Privates Jacob Truman, Pierre Bourier and Richard Gibbons (m. w.). Unarmed citizens—S. R. Henderson, J. C. Dickison, J. W. De Camp (m. w.) and David Holbrook, a teamster from Belle Plaine.

Severely wounded: Major Joseph R. Brown, commanding expedition, wounded in neck and shoulder. Co. A, Sixth Minnesota—Privates Samuel G. Arbuckle, Ernest S. Blase, Enoch Brown, Seth Fielding, P. G. Graney, Alvin Hayford, DeWitt C. House, W. A. Newcomb, Morris Neeley, John Quinn, Francis C. Shanley, Charles W. Smith and Sanders J. Weiting. Co. B, Sixth Minnesota—Andrew J. Thompson. Co. D, Sixth Minnesota—Christopher Swagert. Co. E, Sixth Minnesota—Louis Klinkhammer and Richard Miller. Co. F, Sixth Minnesota—Robert K. Boyd. Co. I, Sixth Minnesota—St. John T. Bean. Co. A, Ninth Minnesota—Louis McDonald, Cullen Guards (Minnesota Militia)—Capt. Joseph Anderson, wounded in leg. Privates A. H. Bunker, Peter Burkman, James Cunningham, Henry Fandle, George Dagenais (half breed) and John Martin. Farrier, Thomas Barton. Volunteers, Maj. Thomas J. Galbraith, Sioux Indian agent for Minnesota; Captain Redfield and Daniel Blair, a citizen. Major Galbraith received two wounds.

Much has been written concerning the Sioux outbreak. In this "History of Renville County" it has been the aim of the editors to print the general story of the Massacre, a few typical experiences of Renville county people who went through those stirring times, the names, so far as possible, of the victims, and a recapitulation of the efforts that have been made to preserve the story of those days. The thoughtful reader is referred to the following books for further information concerning the Massacre: The Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society; History of the Minnesota Valley, Warner & Foote; Sioux Indian Massacre of 1862-63, I. V. D. Heard; The Dakotah War Whoop, Harriet E. Bishop-McConkey; Indian Outbreaks, Judge Daniel Buck; Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, State Publication; History of Kandiyohi County, Lawson & Tew; History of Wright County, Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge; History of Stearns County, William B. Mitchell; The Indians' Revenge, Rev. Alexander Berghold; Indian Massacre in Meeker County, A. C. Smith; Recollec-

tions of the Sioux Indian War, Oscar G. Wall; Monuments and Tablets of the Minnesota Valley Historical Society; Memoirs of Gen. H. H. Sibley, Nathaniel West; Sheteh Pioneers and Indians, H. J. Hibs-

man; Sketches of History of Hutchinson, W. W. Pendergast; My Capture and Escape, Helen Marr Tarbell; History of the Indian War, C. S. Bryant; and various histories of Minnesota.

CHAPTER XLIV.

STORIES OF OLDEN DAYS.

Experiences of Darwin S. Hall—First Lawsuit in Renville County—Story of Rogues' Island Told by David Benson—Story of Werner Boesch by Nels O. Berge—Fort Ridgely Drum, by Charles H. Hopkins—Early Politics, by J. M. Bowler—The Naming of Olivia.

It may be of interest to those who came into Renville county at a later day, when roads and bridges had begun to take form and shape, and to the lads and lasses who have been born here, and they don't have to be very young at that, to learn how some of the old trail blazers journeyed into this region, lying then just as it came from the hands of its Maker. Every one of these old settlers, who came here in the sixties, has an interesting number of incidents to relate if they would only disgorge them, and it is unfortunate that their timidity, modesty or that tired feeling prevents them from doing so, hence being about the youngest, of my age, among the number left to tell the tale, I present this narrative, even though it is not as thrilling as many another might tell.

In the spring of 1867 my brother Ward and I rented a farm in Hebron township, Nicollet county. I had the previous summer taken up a claim in Birch Cooley, in this county, and we thought to put in a crop of grain only, which, after sowing, we could come to our land in Birch Cooley, break up some of it and get in shape for a crop the next year, as well as start things for the making of a farm. The spring of 1867 was very late. I paid \$2 per bushel for seed wheat. I sowed all carefully by hand, harrowed it with old fashioned V-shaped drags hauled by oxen, which was slow work, and it was the first part of June before we got started for our real home making in Birch Cooley.

I well remember leaving that old Nicollet county farm. My aunt, Mrs. Cordelia Carson, owned and lived on that farm. Our pulling out for the west was an event and the family were all out to give us boys a cheerful send-off. My brother was twenty and I was twenty-three years of age, both ex-soldiers of the Civil war. Our outfit consisted of two yoke of oxen, a lumber wagon, in which was a breaking plow, our subsistence, consisting of pork, flour, beans, corn meal, etc., with a variety of tools and the few things necessary to keep house with, including bedding and clothing.

In the back end of the wagon box we had a young calf, which the mother cow was very much attached to, so she followed right along after the wagon, giving us no trouble whatever.

Our start was late, that June forenoon, and we went only a few miles toward New Ulm and went into camp near the old Trogdon farm, not far from the old Red Stone ferry. We unhitched our oxen from the wagon, but left the yokes on them, and turned them out to pick up some feed on the prairie. We made coffee. Our appetites were keen, which we satisfied upon the heartiest of food. We spread our blankets under the wagon and both were ready for sleep in no time, but even though in June, the feed was so short on the prairie our oxen, though yoked, roamed a good deal in search of it, so we took turns watching them during the night, and at the first streak of light we hitched up and pulled out to find a place where our stock could get better feed. This we found in abundance in the bottom land along the Minnesota river, above Redstone ferry, opposite New Ulm. We had found good feed for our cattle, which was all important to our progress and which relieved us a whole lot, but now the rain came down in torrents. A settler kindly gave us room in his one-room shack, which he occupied with his wife and three children. Here we were marooned for a week, while the rain hardly let up. The quarters were somewhat cramped at times, and the atmosphere occasionally somewhat fetid, still we had plenty of substantial food, our animals were recuperating on the luxuriant river bottom pasture, and we considered ourselves fortunate that conditions were no worse. But finally the sun did shine. We yoked up our ox teams, hitched them to the wagon, loaded on our provisions and bedding from the settler's cabin, let the mother cow see us load the calf into the hind end of the wagon box so she would be sure to follow, then our small outfit was once more headed for our claim on section 27 in Birch Cooley township. We

followed the river bottom land, near the bluffs, opposite New Ulm, up the Minnesota river for a number of miles, when we pulled up the bluff and out on to the prairie in hopes of finding better roads. In turning up the bluff we somehow made too short a turn and broke the tongue to our wagon. Such an event now would be serious and a wagonmaker would have to be called in. Those days we depended upon ourselves entirely. We found a small tree by the roadside and from it made a new wagon tongue, and being of green timber, it was better now than before—it would bend and not break so easily. We went a few miles on the prairie and camped for the night, unyoked and turned our oxen out to graze while we cooked and ate our evening meal. Quantity rather than quality was important to us those days, and I can never forget how heartily we ate and how good everything tasted. Having finished our repast, we spread our blankets on the ground, under the wagon, for our bed, but fearing our animals might wander, we rounded them up and tied each ox to a wheel of the wagon, after which we rolled into our blankets and were sound asleep in no time. The next morning, before daylight, we had turned our cattle loose to feed while we prepared and ate our breakfast, after which we hitched up and continued our trek, which was to strike the old Brenesholtz farm, east of Fort Ridgely. The wet season had made the country almost impassable. There were no bridges whatever and we were often stuck in the mud and streams, compelled to unhitch our teams from the wagon, move them ahead to dry footing, then hitch on to the end of the wagon tongue and so pull our wagon across to the solid ground. Thus our progress was very slow and just as the sun was going down it found us about three miles east of the Brenesholtz farm, where we had expected to put up for the night, but without warning we came to the banks of a creek, which evidently had assumed the proportions of some river. It didn't look a bit good to us, but the trail went through it and there was no way around it. No one lived anywhere in sight to tell us, so there was nothing to do but take the plunge, which we did. The stream was sluggish, not much current, but we noticed that our teams, as we drove in, were getting into deep water. Soon they were in so deep that they could get little foothold to pull the wagon, and the wagon stopped. We were stuck again. I got into the water up to my waist, unhooked the teams from the wagon and run them to the opposite bank, but the water was deep so far that our chains would not reach to the end of the wagon tongue. I suggested to my brother that it might be easier for me to go on to Brenesholtz's, get more chain and possibly some of them to help us. He assented, but admonished me to not delay my return. It was now dark. I had three

miles to go. I got there just as they were going to bed. I was some tired. They said wait till morning, invited me to a bed with clean sheets. I fell for it, leaving my poor brother out there herding the stock, with the wagon and all the kit in the middle of the stream, but morning came all too quickly for me. Brenesholtz's folks went with me and we soon had our outfit across that run and again moving. My brother Ward seemed some peeved at my long absence; in short, he was hostile; his voice was pitched in a high key and his language, I thought at that time, unnecessarily forcible. I knew I had treated him shabbily and meekly took my medicine. We soon arrived at the hospitable Brenesholtz farm, where we were so kindly entertained until the next morning that the troubles of the day before were all forgotten.

A short distance west of the Brenesholtz farm was another creek out of its banks by the late rains and good fording somewhat questionable, so as we started on our way Peter, John and the hired man went with us as far as the stream to see that we got safely across. It sure looked uninviting as we came to the fording place. The distance to the other shore was considerable, but the Brenesholtz boys said we could make it, so we plunged in. My brother was on the front end of the wagon driving the teams. I was near the back end watching things. When we were near the middle of the crossing the calf jumped out of the back part of the wagon box into the stream. I knew it would not do to lose that calf, so I jumped in to the rescue. The water, as it left the ford, dashed with a strong current between high banks and swept me off my feet, but I seized the calf around the neck with my left arm and with my right hand got hold of some brush on the bank as we swept by and made out to hold on until they pulled me out; but I had saved the calf, which we again loaded into the wagon and, thanking our kind hosts, we once more took up our march, much elated because we had saved the calf.

We soon turned off the prairie and went over the bluff into the Minnesota river bottom, as the land is called, some distance from the river in either side between the bluffs which tower up on both sides. Here we found plenty of timber and good feed for our stock. We built up a big fire, after getting our supper, so I had a chance to dry out some before turning into the blankets, but whether wet or dry, externally, made little difference to us those days.

We arose early the next morning, pushed on by Fort Ridgely, and made out to reach Holder Jacobus, who kept a primitive stopping place along the road at that time. The next day we landed on our claims in Birch Cooley, some glad that the trek was at an end.

The building of our cabin, the breaking

up from one to five acres for new settlers desirous of holding and making their claims, breaking up a good sized field for ourselves, making hay with a scythe, hand rake and pitchfork, would make another fairly good story.

There is one other incident which, in writing the foregoing, is brought to my mind.

My brother Ward came from Wisconsin out to our aunt's, the Widow Carson's farm, where I made my home, having taught a country school nearby during the winter, arriving about the first of March, 1867. He had never been in Minnesota before and wanted to go out and look over the country where I had taken up my land. So one bright March morning we started, on foot, for the upper reaches of the Minnesota river to spy out the country. The first day we arrived at New Ulm and put up for the night at the hotel. We were not much fatigued, but our eyes seemed to hurt some, which we attributed to the March winds, and we felt about all right the next morning, resuming our hike, we arrived at Fort Ridgely, about twenty miles, that afternoon, by that time our eyes felt as though full of particles of sand, quite painful, my brother in a much worse condition than myself, he was at a loss to account for it and thought he was sure enough going blind. There was a company of U. S. infantry then stationed at the Fort, we went to the surgeon or Post doctor, who gave us some kind of an eye wash and told us we were snow blind; that relieved us somewhat, as we had an idea that it would soon pass off, but to us it proved a serious affair. At that time E. T. Tillotson was carrying the mail from the fort to the west end of the county. He improvised a seat on his shaky outfit, and binding up our eyes we took passage. He went the bottom road and carried us as far as the mouth of the Birch Cooley creek, by where Robert Simmons now lives. A track left the road there and followed the banks of the creek, up through the woods, some distance, to Terrence Brazil's log cabin where he lived with his wife and a pretty good sized family. We two boys had something of a time getting to Brazil's, you may be sure, we were practically blind and had to feel our way along that blind trail, which took us the longest time, and our eyes were hurting us mighty bad. Arriving there, old Terrence Brazil and his good wife welcomed us with genuine Irish hospitality, they gave us the best, and about the only bed in the house. They did everything they could think of to relieve the pain we suffered and help us regain our sight. Slippery elm bark poultice and every remedy that any of them could think of was tried out on us, but nothing seemed to do us any good, and for more than a week we were practically blind and in our bed there, suffering much

and far more helpless than an ordinary blind person, when one afternoon some mixed-blood Indian trappers came down through that neck of woods, and good old Terrence Brazil, on the lookout for something to cure or relieve us, asked them if they knew of anything to do for snow blindness, or anything to stop the pain, or to do for it in any way. They said it was easy to be cured over night; that our many days of suffering and bother to other people had all been entirely unnecessary. They told him to get some fresh cow-dung, put it in clean cloth and bind it on our eyes at night, and we would be all well in the morning. This was done and the next morning the pain was all gone and we were nearly as well as ever, so well, I know, that we went over to Joseph L. Preston's the next morning. Preston was a bachelor, a Civil war veteran, and had just put up a quite pretentious hewed log house. Here we made our headquarters, not only at this time, but when we came up to break on our land, and at other times as well. Joe Preston was a typical Mainite. He most always had some family in his house who were getting things ready to go on their own claim. John R. Wimer, R. W. Davis, Knauf and many others can remember, if alive, the helping hand of Joseph L. Preston.

And one story makes you think of another: In the fall of 1866 I was at Fort Ridgely and heard somehow that a party living north of the fort, in Mud Lake, now Cairo township, wished to trade a yoke of oxen for a horse. I had a horse which I had been riding most of the summer, looking over the country. I had secured my claim of land and a yoke of oxen would do me a whole lot better than one horse, so I rode over and made the trade with him in short order, the settler giving me the oxen with yoke and log chain, I delivering to him the horse, a good saddle and bridle, with blanket. The oxen were a well broken pair of stags, and were really the best team of oxen I ever owned. Two years later I sold them to Jerry Reagan, who now lives at Morton. Jerry wanted me to throw in a lot of things, the oxen looked so homely. I am inclined to think I did, for I had just been elected county auditor of the county, and thought I was some pumpkins; a heap more than I did later when I had got some of the political experience, and discovered that my salary was paid in county orders, with no money in the county treasury to pay them, but that is another good-sized story, which is almost making me wander, so I must return to my trade with the settler, who told me that the oxen were kind and gentle, that I could jump right on the back of the high ox in crossing any of the streams, which were plenty those days of no bridges, so it was not long before we struck a creek of some magnitude. I carefully got onto the back of the big old fel-

low, not just sure how he would take it, but he was quiet and all right and I started them through the stream. They went fine and I was well pleased with the way my new purchase performed, when without any warning, like a bolt from the blue, my mount bellowed and lunged in a manner that would do credit to a bucking bronco. The other ox didn't seem to have gone crazy, so he, being yoked to my seemingly war horse, held him some, but the gyrations of my steed was some frightful, and I was in a wondering state of mind. An ox is a mighty awkward animal to ride on, their head is carried so low, and there is no chance to take hold of any mane when it is necessary to grab leather, hence I was some confused and not a little alarmed that this old bovine had been suddenly struck with hydrophobia upon entering the waters of this quiet stream. I, however, wasn't given so very much time to think about it, for all at once the old cuss seemed to have an extra bad spasm and some way improvised a movement, on his part, that threw me high into the air and I landed square on my back at the edge of the stream. When I came to I was looking straight up at the blue sky, and my oxen were quietly grazing near by as if nothing had happened. I then began to study this strange action on the part of this mature and gentle old stag. I felt him over and there seemed to be no sore spots. What then could be the matter? I then examined my own short-comings and would see wherein I might be the cause, and when, after no little search, I found I was wearing a wicked pair of rowels on the heels of my boots, which I had forgotten to shed with the horse. It was all just as plain as day, and we never did let it occur again.

Another incident might be worth relating. After my brothers and I had got our shack up and were getting things started on the land, my youngest brother Charles had come on by this time, we thought good water was an important addition to any well-regulated household. We had been taking water we used from a shallow well close to a slough near by, and why we didn't all have typhoid fever or germ-making disease is doubtless because we were so hardy and tough no microbe could make headway; then it was not the style to be afraid of every kind of animalcule or minute bug, as it is today, so we kept beastly healthy all the time, but a well with pure cold water was something we longed for, and concluded to have, and we boys started to dig a well in about the location we wished to have it. We went down as deep as we could throw the soil out by hand, about ten or twelve feet, then a windlass had to be rigged with a rope and large bucket to haul the dirt to the surface. Those days digging wells was a trade requiring something of an expert, such a man was "Burns, the Well Digger,"

as he was known by all at that time. He was an old bachelor and had a claim east of ours a few miles and was a good neighbor. We employed him to come to our place to finish digging our well. He came. He was also a "water witch," one who, by the manipulation or the using of a forked stick, tells the sure place to dig to find a vein of water. He examined and tested the place we had located and begun to dig our well. He told us that no water would be found at that place, but that at a short distance away plenty of water would be found at the depth of twenty-five feet. I had no faith in his forked stick theory and told him to dig where we had started and got down so far. He says "All right, it is fifty cents a foot." He went down forty-five feet and it seemed to be getting dryer, with the ground ever so much harder as he went deeper. Water was obtained by going down about twenty-five feet in that neighborhood. We didn't want to pull water from so deep a well, so we quit digging and gave up that well. The forked stick would work in my brother Charley's hands, but in the hands of none of the rest except "Well Digger Burns". Burns, with his forked stick, would find a vein of water, under the ground, and follow it across the fields. My brother Charley, who had been blindfolded and out of sight of Burns, would come out and follow the same vein as did Burns, or at least, under the influence of the forked stick go over the same ground previously traveled by Burns, so the next well I let Burns sink it his way, and he got never failing water at a depth of twenty-eight feet.

When the U. S. troops were stationed at Fort Ridgely all the water they used was hauled some distance from a spring in a deep coolie east of the fort. A well was dug over one hundred feet deep by the government, and no water. Burns was the first one to find water. He located a number of wells there with his forked stick at about thirty feet depth, after the soldiers had left, one right on the parade ground and one near the settlers' store. The principle upon which Burns worked with his forked stick I never tried to fathom, neither could I satisfactorily discuss it with him. He always accomplished results, what more could science do? We pause for reply. (By Darwin S. Hall.)

The first lawsuit in Birch Cooley, and without doubt the first lawsuit in Renville county. While the early settlers of Renville county were, as a rule, peaceable and friendly, one with the other, it was only natural that occasional difference of opinions would arise over different subjects, or caused by the advent of "John Barley-corn" upon occasions. But in the spring of 1868 town meetings were held in the several towns in the county, at which were elected peace officers as well as other officials for the townships, which was important, in that it no longer demanded

physical efforts to settle personal controversies as in the years that had passed. But the strong arm of the law was prepared to lay heavy hands upon any and all malefactors.

The early settlers of Birch Cooley township were mostly Irish and American, few of other nationalities were among the first in that township, and no effort will be made to record the semi-occasional combats engaged in by the denizens of this Birch Cooley township, while upon their various visits to New Ulm, Redwood Falls, Beaver Falls or other places where spirituous, vinous or malt liquor was dished out, prior to the establishment of law, by the election of Willard Drury as justice of the peace for the township of Birch Cooley.

The people of this township, in 1868, were not over-burdened with worldly goods. It might be said that their means were about as limited as they well could be, one who possessed a yoke of oxen was some capitalist, and those who had two yoke of oxen (there were no horses), with other stock, swine, poultry, sheep for the winter socks, etc., seemed possessors of great wealth and were few in number. But among this latter number were John Tracy and Terrence Brazil, Sr. Tracy was a quiet and industrious man, said very little, but did a lot of thinking. He brought in some stock and started to open up a farm near the Birch Cooley timber. Brazil had land that ran into the timber near Tracy's. He also had considerable stock, was an active, energetic man with a growing family coming up around him; he was inclined to be some quick tempered, and rather more outspoken than Tracy, but a man with generous impulses and kind at heart.

Tracy and Brazil were neighbors, but they didn't hit it off well. Tracy's stock would roam over Brazil's land and Brazil's stock would break into Tracy's field, and other things, as often happens with near neighbors. The breach widened until finally Brazil had Tracy hauled before Justice Drury on a criminal charge of cutting or mangling Brazil's cattle when they strayed over on Tracy's premises.

The case was tried at Justice Drury's house, in the north part of the township. E. T. Tillotson, later clerk of court, and a character, was attorney for plaintiff, or state, Brazil the complaining witness. Col. Sam McPhail, of Redwood Falls, another peculiar character if there ever was one, his voice always pitched in a high key, appeared for the defendant, Tracy. A jury trial was demanded and a court officer was sent out into the highways and tall grasses to bring in the men for a jury. Six men were all he could round up for the purpose, and it was decided to go on with the case, so the six men were sworn in as jurors and the case presented by Tillotson, as attorney for the state. Witnesses were sworn; the attorneys were active in rag-

ging witnesses, almost coming to blows themselves at times. They insisted on telling Drury what evidence to admit, and the court had its hands full keeping order, but kept the rampant lawyers from each other's throats, insisting on preserving the dignity of the court. The attorneys addressed the jury at great length, and finally the case went to the jury, who were directed to retire in charge of a bailiff to deliberate on their verdict, but there was no place to go to. The house was small, hovel for cattle near by unfit, so as a last resort the jury of six men, or boys, were herded into a chicken coop so small that they had to stoop low to get in, and the odor and surroundings were some fierce, but you may be sure that jury was impressed with its responsibility. They fully believed if they said guilty it would send John Tracy to prison, away from his wife and family, and it was a solemn duty for them. They thought maybe Tracy had been a little hasty in firing axes, pitch forks, etc., at Brazil's cattle, even though he had some cause for wrath, but "guilty," standing out alone by itself, they could not pronounce, so the jury brought in a verdict, pronouncing Tracy guilty and imposing a fine of \$40. When this verdict was read there was an explosion in the improvised court room. Col. McPhail, in his high-keyed voice, claimed the court had been insulted by the jury trying to fine the prisoner, thus assuming a prerogative of the court. The court must have had some such idea also from the way he expressed his surprise at the dense ignorance of law manifested by that six-man jury. He ordered them to return from whence they came, the coop, and bring in a verdict of simply guilty or not guilty, and as they were bound not to send John Tracy from his family and away to prison, the verdict was "not guilty."

Then Tillitson, who didn't say much at the other verdict, set up a howl, but no use, "the first lawsuit" was ended. (By Darwin S. Hall.)

The Story of Rogues' Island. Rogues' Island, a slightly stretch of land, consisting of about three acres in Preston lake, has borne various local designations, including Eagle Island.

Its official and present name was originated a number of years ago at a party held on the island with Hon. Darwin S. Hall as host.

Hon. David Benson, of Renville, tells the story with characteristic humor in a personal letter to the editor, which is well worth producing here. Mr. Benson says:

"Some twenty years ago Hon. D. S. Hall, member of Congress from the Third Congressional District, invited a few of his friends to come out to his Preston Lake farm for a week-end outing and a good time generally. The party consisted of Andrew Bromstad, A. H. Anderson, F. G. Neller-moe, P. O. Dosseth, H. H. Olson,

Hans Tompte and myself. Andrew Bromstad was then editor of the "Sacred Heart Journal." He is now editor of a newspaper at Milan, Minn., a Republican stronghold which he has succeeded in turning Democratic, so much so that he has forced the U. S. government to appoint him postmaster. A. H. Anderson was a county commissioner, and, as the saying is, was the "whole thing" up in his "west end" district at that time. F. G. Neller-moe was then, as now, a banker and man of affairs at Buffalo Lake. H. H. Olson was a substantial farmer from Wang township, a typical Norseman, whiskers and all, a jolly good fellow at all times. P. O. Dosseth was one of the best farmers in the Erickson township, a big man physically and every way a dependable man. Hans Tompte was a business man of Sacred Heart, liked a good time, a cheerful loser and all 'round good sport. As for myself, it is difficult to properly classify me. Some might have considered me a politician in those days. But back at that time there was another name that some of them called me which politicians always enjoy. Our county, at that time, had a large foreign born population. Many of them after living here for a time wanted to change their names to something having a more American sound.

"In those days it took an act of the legislature to change one's name. That did not cost anything. Now the district court attends to that matter and the victim must "cough up" two dollars to the change artist. During my several terms in the legislature I succeeded in getting acts passed changing a number of names. Appreciation for this service together with the fact that I was one of the twenty-four who voted for Governor O. K. Davis for U. S. senator from Minnesota, caused some of my constituents to look upon me not as a politician but a statesman. Nowadays some of the politicians are spoken of as "Pork Barrel Statesmen."

"Well, Darwin Hall had sent out his call, in those days, "one blast upon his bugle horn were worth a thousand men." We knew him for a liberal entertainer and responded with alacrity.

"Arriving at Preston Lake on this memorial trip of which I am relating, fishing tackle, tents, provisions and refreshments of all kinds, both liquid and solids, were loaded into the boats and we pulled over to the island, a delightful retreat owned by Mr. Hall, where we set up our tents and prepared to settle down for a number of days of care-free relaxation.

"The weather was ideal, one of those beautiful June Saturdays, and we looked forward to a delightful time, nor were we disappointed. Our anticipations were fully realized, and then some. A happy afternoon was put in by various kinds of diversions, visiting, discussing things political

and social, the price of farm products, and some fishing. In the evening the great American game was started up in the big tent, much interest and animation was manifested by the various individuals engaged in the good-natured contest, which lasted well into the small hours.

"At about midnight the suggestion was made that some of the party go out on the lake and catch some fish for breakfast. I being no good at the game and as Neller-moe never "sat in," very naturally the choice fell upon Mr. Neller-moe and myself. Another reason, we were from the northern part of Norway, known as the greatest fish country in the world, born and reared, as it were, with our youthful feet in foam of the sea. So off we started. After spending some time on the lake, the night being exceedingly dark, we decided to return to camp. It must have been about 1 o'clock when we arrived at this conclusion. Soon we reached, as I supposed, the shore, though as a matter of fact there was about four feet of water between the boat and the shore or landing place. Neller-moe had jumped out of the bow of the boat with his long legged rubber boots on, holding the front end of the craft preparatory to landing. I arose in the stern of the boat, thinking that we were already on the beach and expecting to step right out on land. Just then, however, Neller-moe pulled the boat up to the landing with a sudden jerk. Backwards over the stern of the boat I went, head down, into fifteen or twenty feet of water. I suppose at this time this would be called "sub-marine-ing." When I came to the surface sputtering water from my eyes, nose and mouth, Neller-moe called me, saying, "I have found your hat." The hat, as insisted upon by the rest of the visitors, was my periscope while I was raking the bottom of the lake to get fish for breakfast. At that time I could not see Neller-moe's face in the darkness of the night, but I knew I was getting no sympathy and that he was laughing at me. So I then and there abandoned "sub-marine-ing" for all time to come, though I notice since I gave it up it has been brought to a considerable success.

"After I got myself once more on dry land and emptied out my long rubber boots, I said to Neller-moe: "Don't say anything to that bunch up in the tent. It is bad enough as it is." We had a big log-heap of a camp fire burning up a lot of old timber on the island. It sure looked good to me that night. I got as close to it as I could. I turned myself from side to side, a-baking myself and trying to get warm as best I could, for I was some moist when I had finished that midnight fishing trip. The night was rather chilly and my condition was not what one could call real comfortable, and worst of all I did not seem to get any real first class sympathy from my comrades. This somewhat peeved

me for the time being, but the warm sunshine of the next day and some dry clothing got at Darwin Hall's house brought back the cheer and banished the trouble.

"While I was by that fire in that depressed frame of mind before mentioned, I observed quite a commotion going on in the tent. Loud voices were heard in mirthful badinage, a real jollification was being held. I tried to imagine that a band of bloody Sioux or Blackfoot Indians had sneaked over to the island and taken possession while Nelleremoe and I were out fishing, so full of resentment and wolfish were my feelings, for lack of sympathy, while I was out by that camp fire trying to absorb a little warmth; I almost wished the whole gang massacred. Gritting my teeth I listened to the hilarity for a considerable time. Finally I took advantage of a slight lull in the apparent celebration. I called to Mr. Hall and asked him, "What is the name of this island of yours?" "I never knew that it had a name," was his reply. "Well," said I, "it's got a name now, and don't you forget it." "What is it?" asked Mr. Hall. I replied that hereafter this island should bear the name and be designated as Rogue's Island in commemoration of the buccaneers and piratical vikings who landed upon it this beautiful day in June. The "boys" saw the joke and agreed that possibly the name might be all right and appropriate. The next day, most of them being used to big ships and the manner of naming them, concluded they would christen the island after the manner of launching a ship, by breaking a bottle of champagne across her bow. Not having the imported extra-dry, they decided that two bottles of an inferior brand, or different kind of spirituous would do just as well. It may have taken three, I am not sure, anyway the island was christened all right, and the name I gave it that day has stuck. Some years afterwards, Sherwood, of Bird Island, issued a map of Renville county, Rogue's Island appeared upon that map, thus, while I gave this beautiful piece of land its name, true and proper, Sherwood did help to put—Rogue's Island on the map."

(Editor's Note. It should be stated here that though Mr. Benson wrote the first draft of this story, it has been considerably revised by other members of that memorable party, and in inserting statements here and there, especially those regarding the state of Mr. Benson's feelings during the proceedings, they have had fully as much enjoyment as they did in participating in that trip of so many years ago.)

Werner Baesch was a native of Germany and settled in about 1852 or 1853 on some land three and a half miles northwest from Fort Ridgely, coming at about the time that the fort was built. Afterwards he located on a half section of Indian script land on the west side of the Little Rock creek, now called Three Mile creek. Part

of this land was located in section 22 and part in section 23, township 112, range 33, in the town of Camp. The old government trail or road was laid across this creek and Werner Baesch's land at this point was a fine camping ground, as there was a fine spring of clear and good water there the whole year around. In time this township took its name from this camping ground. All travelers going west on the old government road always stopped there to rest. Werner Baesch was a very industrious man, but farming in those days was a rather poor paying business, only enough whereby to make a living. The only market for produce was at Fort Ridgely. Finally, along in 1856 or 1857, Mr. Baesch started a trading point at his place. He kept a little store of merchandise, groceries, etc., which was transported by steamboats from St. Paul on the Minnesota river to Fort Ridgely. He also kept an old-fashioned stopping place or tavern for the traveling public, and in connection with the tavern, a bar. He built up a very fine trade and made considerable money. He had a fine trade with the Indians in furs of all kinds, especially muskrats, mink, coons and fox. This western country was full of such fur-bearing animals at that time. The trade and business went smoothly up till the Indian outbreak in 1862. Mr. Baesch had a great many friends among the Indians and was warned in time of the outbreak. He took the warning, packed most of his property and moved to New Ulm. Later the Indians set fire to all his buildings at the trading post. A log cabin was left, but that building was about a half mile southwest, on his quarter section of land in section 22. He remained in New Ulm and entered the milling business, both flour milling and saw milling. His mill in New Ulm was well and favorably known all over this western country. In 1868 this concern consisted of Baesch, Pheninger and Deanke, under the name of Eagle Mill Co. In May, 1868, he sold his half section farm at Little Rock Creek, 160 acres to N. O. Berge and 160 acres to Sylvester Olson. Mr. Baesch was a gentleman of the clearest type, accommodating and helping many of the early settlers along in financial and many other ways, especially during the four years of the grasshopper plague. He was married and had one daughter, now Mrs. Mathews, last heard of in Marshall, Minn. Mrs. Baesch died in New Ulm, Minn., in the latter part of the eighties, and Mr. Baesch in the middle part of the nineties. (By Nels O. Berge.)

Fort Ridgely Drum Corps. Miles P. Clark and his two sons, Howard and William, composed the original Fort Ridgely Drum Corps. They furnished the martial music for the government service, and remained near the fort after the fort was discontinued. In 1870 Chas. H. Hopkins was taken into the organization and their

first exploit after he joined was to play at the Fourth of July celebration held that year at Beaver Falls, then the county seat of Renville county.

I will mention in passing, that in those days there was a jealous strife between the citizens of Beaver Falls and the citizens of Redwood Falls, the county seat of Redwood county, only about six miles apart on opposite sides of the Minnesota river. On account of there being so much speculators' land lying south and east of Redwood Falls, everything favored the further success of Beaver Falls. The population being about even the circumstances were such that when either village celebrated the other could not.

The Drum Corps left Fort Ridgely at 4 o'clock in the morning with a four-horse team and band wagon, all trimmed and decorated for the occasion, and arrived at the top of the hill overlooking the village at 9 a. m., after driving 20 miles.

Even at this early hour the village was well filled by farmers and their families, and when we marched down the hill leading into the village that morning to the tunes of Yankee Doodle, Dixie and St. Patrick's Day in the Morning, one could not believe otherwise than that the Fort Ridgely Drum Corps was the only martial band in the world, and that Beaver Falls was the most important place in the United States.

On the return of the Drum Corps to Fort Ridgely after the day's celebration, we lost our way. Some time in the night, after traveling many miles not knowing where we were going, we were brought up short by a woman's screams, who, rushing out of her dugout, commanded us in broken English to get off of her house. Then it was found our head team had stopped on the sod roof of her house. After we got straightened around she informed us we were several miles north of the Fort Ridgely road.

We then started south, and after reaching the right road continued, arriving at Fort Ridgely at the break of day, and in time to play "We won't go Home till Morning" to a goodly number of settlers that had been celebrating the Fourth by having a dance in the old soldiers' garrison that was then in good condition.

Years after Miles P. Clark (Drum Major) and his boys moved to Duluth; and Chas. H. Hopkins and his two sons, Hayward and Frank, and Harvey Stevens, a son of Seymour Stevens, an old soldier, and Jerry P. Patten of the 6th Minnesota Infantry, with George Buschers as drum major, composed the organization for many years. It may appear as it is now constituted, something like the old Revolutionary musket that one of the descendants prided himself on owning. Upon being asked about the different parts of the musket that looked as though they were of a later date he admitted that parts had been

replaced until there was no part of the original musket left. In the same manner the name of the Fort Ridgely Drum Corps has been preserved, though none of the three original members now belong to it. Possibly this is in keeping with the present conditions pertaining to Fort Ridgely, for nothing but a part of a stone building is left to remind one of the fort of olden days, though we still have the historical data, the splendid monuments, the cemetery, the beautiful scenery and the state park. And if in the future the reader desires to stand on historic ground and enjoy the most magnificent scenery in the whole Northwest, he should make a pilgrimage to the old historic site of Fort Ridgely, where he may once more hear the music of the Old Fort Ridgely Drum Corps. (By Charles H. Hopkins.)

Renville County Politics. Political life when I settled in Renville county was a one-sided affair. There were about four Republican voters to one Democrat. Several of the most populous towns were settled by people of Norwegian or Swedish birth or extraction who uniformly voted the Republican ticket. The town of Hawk Creek hadn't a Democrat in it. Wang had only one Democrat and some others were nearly as bad off. The county contained but one newspaper and that was Republican. There was some kicking against the Norsks and Swedes monopolizing the offices, and threats to combine against them were heard, but nothing came of it as the officials were mostly popular and generally well qualified for their positions.

There is a tradition that one H. E. Wadsworth, a Democrat, broke into the legislature of 1872 and George H. Megquier, Democrat, turned a like trick on county attorney; both, however, for only one term. The grand jury took no notice of it, however.

In 1876, my fellow Democrats thought I needed exercise, so they nominated me for representative. Hans Gronnerud kindly gave me a list of influential farmers in the western part of the county and I struck out with horse and buggy to interview them in my own behalf. At Hawk Creek I ran up against a big schoolhouse midday meeting which was being addressed by Hon. J. W. Arcander and Hon. A. E. Rice, of Willmar. There was not a Democrat in the crowd. I walked in and took a seat by the middle aisle. Arcander was showing why Major Strait should go to congress and Sammy Tilden to a much worse place. He was in the act of telling a story of a certain young unmarried woman who was a candidate for membership in the church, but who was strenuously objected to by some of the brethren. The rest of the story might not look well in print, so I omit it. He took me for the Lutheran minister of the neighborhood and was somewhat nonplussed, but went on and finished the story. During a recess I was

introduced to the speakers and many of the farmers. Rice and Arctander very generously gave me an opportunity to address the meeting and invited me to go along down to Sacred Heart where they held a rousing meeting that night and gave me a chance to speak there. It was one of the amenities of politics, not any too often met with. They lost nothing by it and I gained a favorable introduction which was helpful to me in after years. Their courtesy convinced me that they were broadminded men, a fact which long years of intimate acquaintance have confirmed.

The next year I was nominated again. I was too busy on the farm to make a campaign. I made a brief speech at Beaver Falls and paid D. J. Deasy's expenses for distributing my tickets through the western towns. About two weeks after election my hired man, returning home from Beaver Falls with a load of wood, brought the news of my election. To this day I do not know who was responsible for it, but have always believed that I owe a debt of gratitude to some influential, generous friends, which it is now too late to discharge.

In 1878 Edmund O'Hara, Democrat, was elected to the House and I was defeated for the Senate. I never ran for office again in Renville county except as candidate for Representative in Congress in 1894 and as candidate for Lieutenant-Governor in 1896 and 1898. The county seat removal question was up until it was settled in 1899. It was the field against Bird Island which rendered it politic for her close friends to refrain from seeking office at the hands of the county. The old timers at Beaver Falls, being at the county seat, had the advantage of wide acquaintance, were most always able to dictate nominations and still more surely to decide the elections.

I may state here that we had one Democrat in the person of P. H. Kirwan, of Beaver Falls, a very likable and popular man, who held the office of County Auditor for twelve successive years. Another Democrat, Billy McGowan, was Clerk of Courts for several terms and ought to have been continued in office indefinitely.

But the Farmers' Alliance wave acquired momentum in 1888, and in 1890, by fusing with the Democrats, elected Ferdinand Borchert, of Bird Island, to the Senate, and Henry A. Peterson, of Renville, to the House. Borchert and Peterson asked me to manage their campaign. I advised Borchert to go out with his horse and buggy and camp with the voters and see as many of them as he could, right up to election day, not to contend with them but to leave them feeling better when he left than when he came. He followed my advice and besides held some schoolhouse meetings. He came back with the statement that he believed the democratic endorsement was doing him more hurt than good. He was cautioned to bottle that

notion up and not let the Democrats hear of it before election.

Peterson was assigned to certain parts of the county where he had the best prospect of getting votes. He came back to me twice with his head filled with fictions of our opponents, that I was not true to him, had sold him out, etc. I set him right and sent him back with the assurance that, if he listened to his opponents, it meant sure defeat for him. He went to one of my bitterest political opponents to find out whether the stories he had heard about me could be true and was told that he could rely upon my word as to that. That was one of the few things I ever got out of politics to be grateful for.

Meantime, I stirred our friends up by interviews and correspondence and felt amply rewarded by the success of the candidates for whom I had put in my best licks.

The Farmers' Alliance movement was confined to farmers. It made rapid progress in all parts of the country, more especially in the South and West. It developed into the People's party open to all voters without regard to their calling. It soon bade fair to become one of the two leading parties in the country. In 1892 it cast more than one million votes for Gen. J. B. Weaver for president. In 1894 it took the lead in Renville county and elected James Hanna to the Senate and O. L. Brevig to the House.

But in 1896 the Bryan wave practically absorbed the People's party and it gradually disappeared. However, it injected the spirit of progress into both the old parties which manifested itself later in both state and national legislation. (By J. M. Bowler.)

Naming of Olivia. Olivia, the present county seat town, was not much in evidence, along the Milwaukee railroad, when Hector, Bird Island, Renville and Sacred Heart had been placed on the map in fairly good shape. Some one of the railroad folks was bright enough to see that the plot of ground where Olivia now stands was so near the very center of the county that eventually, when railroads had all cut off Beaver Falls, the then county seat, it would be just about the place to locate that important county governing town.

At the time Olivia was located as a town-site, named and put upon the map, Albert Bowman Rogers was chief engineer of the Hastings and Dakota, as that division of the Milwaukee road was then called. Albert was a brother of L. Z. Rogers, a prominent man of Waterville, this state, at that time. Albert B. Rogers made his home with his brother at Waterville, much of the time. He was the whole thing about that road in early days; he had the say where towns and stations should be located and he had the naming of them; he was a celebrated civil engineer; he was chief in the building of the Iowa and Min-

nesota division of the Milwaukee road into the cities, was with the M. & St. L., going from there to the Canadian Pacific, where he made his reputation as a civil engineer in building that road through to Selkirk and the Canadian Rocky Mountains. His last work was with J. J. Hill and the Great Northern. He died in May, 1889, at the home of his brother in Waterville.

The first station agent to be placed at Ortonville, Minn., was a woman. Her name was Olive. She was a particular

friend of Chief Engineer Rogers, and it was for her he named Olivia, and it was thus that the county seat town of Renville county happened to be christened with such a beautiful name.

Judge L. L. Baxter, late of Fergus Falls, was at that time attorney for the Hastings & Dakota railroad, and both he and Mr. Rogers have more than once told Darwin S. Hall all about the naming of Olivia. All of the other parties are dead, but Mr. Hall still lives in Olivia to authenticate this historical item.

CHAPTER XLV.

PIONEER DEVELOPMENT.

Nels O. Berge, a Pioneer, Tells the Story of the Progress of County, with Particular Reference to the Pioneers of the Southeastern Townships—Looking Over the Land—Decision to Settle in Camp—The Colony Arrives—Names of the Pioneers—Early Discomforts—Storms—Stores and Mills—Thrilling Incidents—Wonderful Changes—Retrospection.

To properly relate for future generations the story of the early settlement of the southeastern part of Renville county, the names of the early settlers, the routes they took to get here, the conditions they found upon their arrival, the terrible hardships some had to endure, the privations of the early days, the blizzards, the hurricanes, the floods, the grasshopper ravages and the prairie fires; the influence the coming of the settlers had on the country, and the wonderful development and prosperity that has followed; it is necessary that I should start at my old boyhood home in the township of Ettrick, Trempealeau county, Wisconsin.

Nearly all the able bodied men in that township enlisted in the Civil war. In 1866 they were again at their homes. Much talk was at that time heard of the wonderful possibilities of the country further northwest. The great conflict being over there was every opportunity for agricultural development, the Indians having been subdued there was no longer any danger of barbarous massacres. The time was ripe for a great westward legira. Two colonies were therefore projected in Ettrick township, one colony desiring to investigate the advantages of settling in Pope, Stearns and Kandiyohi counties, while the other colony favored Renville, Yellow Medicine and Nicollet counties.

Accordingly, in the fall of 1867, Louis Hanson and Ole E. Berge set out for the land office at St. Peter, going by way of Trempealeau, Red Wing and Kenyon. Between Kenyon and Faribault, however, they were overtaken by a heavy snowstorm and the trip was abandoned.

In the spring of 1868 another party was formed, consisting of Louis Hanson, Sylvester Olson, Iver K. Sysee, Ole I. Dale, with Nels O. Berge (myself) going in place of his father, Ole E. Berge, who was too busy. Hanson, Olson and Sysee, all soldiers, and splendid looking men, were dressed in their uniforms, and this insured us good treatment everywhere. From Winona we went by rail to Waseca, and from there by stage to St. Peter, where at the land office we obtained much valuable information, and plats to several townships in Yellow Medicine county.

Then we set out on foot along the old military road, via Swan Lake and LaFayette, and found the route well settled. We slept the first night at a farmhouse and reached Fort Ridgely, forty-five miles from St. Peter, about 1 o'clock the next noon. The buildings of the fort were still standing, though pierced with countless bullets. A Mr. Clark kept a hotel there. Henry Simmons was postmaster and merchant. The government officer, Sergeant Howard, was, for the time being, absent.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon we started out to the northeast, walked about a mile along the old government road, and then turned east and crossed Ford creek, a name which, owing to the nearness of the fort was gradually changed to Fort creek. Now we were in Cairo township. South we could still see the trees east of the fort, but everywhere else rolling prairie stretched as far as the eye could reach. On the southeast quarter, section 8, we found William Height, with whom we spent the night. He was anxious for neighbors and showed us some vacant claims where

Fairfax is now located. But the land was low and poorly drained and the ponds and sloughs discouraged us.

Here Iver K. Sysee left us, and started alone toward St. John (Willmar), near where he had some relatives. Over and through sloughs and marshes he went and found a claim near Norway Lake in Kandiyohi county, onto which he moved his family in June.

The other four of us kept on, reached Camp township and came to the cabin of Charles Monney, who was married to an Indian woman. Continuing on our way we walked to the top of a hill which is the highest point in Camp. There as we looked back toward Fort Ridgely, and our eyes swept the Minnesota bluffs with their timbers, we found the location to our liking. But we passed on, and toward evening reached the place where Magnus Johnson was building a shack. We spent the night at Iver Iverson's, two miles further west, on the north side of Purgatory creek, southwest quarter section 2, south Birch Cooley. Mr. Iverson was at Beaver Falls buying provisions, but he returned that evening. He encouraged us to locate in Camp, saying the land was just as rich as it was in Iowa.

However, we had maps of Yellow Medicine county, and we were still inclined to locate there, though we were told that we had yet more than fifty miles to travel, and that as Minnesota Falls and Granite Falls had no steamboats or railroads the nearest market would be at New Ulm, sixty or seventy miles away. So in the morning we continued along the government trail. The country we passed was splendid and there seemed no end to the great prairie, the bluffs hid the timbers and settlers' cabins of the Minnesota bottoms, and a fringe of brush along the creek was all that could be seen except grass and flowers. At Birch Cooley creek we held a council, and acting on the suggestion of Ole I. Dale turned back toward Fort Ridgely. He said we could not find a better looking country than that we had examined in Camp, timber was near and the mills at New Ulm were said to be good.

Following the road on our way back, we came to a hotel kept by Mrs. Elizabeth Graff, northeast quarter section 17, Camp, and there met Mrs. Graff as well as a young man named Thomas Smith.

Mrs. Graff's first husband, Max Haack, had been killed by the Indians, though she and her children were saved. Mr. Graff had been killed by accident the year before we arrived. Later she married Andrew Schott. She outlived him several years and died two years ago, leaving three sons, Otto Haack, of Olivia, and Oscar and Andrew Schott, farmers in Camp township.

When we met Thomas Smith he was preparing to go to New Ulm, with his horse team, after some material for Mrs. Graff.

He told us that he was the son of a man killed by the Indians. He had a homestead three miles southeast of Mrs. Graff's, and he stated that he knew of a half section of land with timber and running water, that we could buy of Werner Baesch, of New Ulm, who had lived in Camp before the massacre. So with Mr. Smith we started out in his wagon.

On the way we passed a number of dug-outs, houses dug partly in the earth and built up with logs, with neat hay roofs, and usually with a door and two windows in front. The first place about a mile or so from the hotel was that of John Zahn, the next was that of Henry Knoff; they had moved onto their claims the year before.

Not far away were the homes of Thomas Tweet and Thomas Hill. Tweet had been there about two years; Hill had been there about three years and owned a half section. Later he sold out to Anders Korsmo and Jens Skarnes and took a homestead in Birch Cooley township. Further down the road we met the brothers, Andrew and Siver Nelson, countrymen of ours, who had claims in sections 12 and 22.

Soon we approached Three Mile creek, called by some histories the Little Rock creek, though the real Little Rock creek was many miles further down the Minnesota. The Baesch half section which Mr. Smith showed us consisted of prairie and some sixty acres of timber. The creek ran through each of the forties, and there was also a fine spring there. Where the flat crosses to the river bluffs we found lines of trenches and breastworks, and were told that after the massacre a number of French and half-breed soldiers had been entrenched here. First the place was called French Camp, and from this the name Camp was given to the township. A little further east we found a log building, 36 by 20, badly wrecked, in which the soldiers had lived. We also passed just west of the old crossing on Three Mile creek, the ruins which were all that the Indians had left of Werner Baesch's hotel, store, big barns and outbuildings, which before the massacre had almost made a small village. On this land we decided to locate, Sylvester Olson and myself to purchase Mr. Baesch's half section, and Lewis Hanson to locate on a quarter section in section 23, adjoining.

It is interesting to note that the original owners of this piece of land were William R. La Framboise and Thomas A. Robertson. These two gentlemen, George Quinn and others, had Indian family connections, and secured land by the laying of half-breed script. Thus in the land office records there appear many names of French and half-bloods who secured the original title from the government, but who never actually lived on the land.

Of course we heard many interesting stories of the massacre. Of the people in

this vicinity Halleck Peterson and his family, John Halvorson and family, John Anderson and Hans Jorgen Halvorson were saved. Werner Baesch and family and several others in the vicinity escaped to New Ulm. The father of Thomas Smith was killed at the mouth of Three Mile creek, section 27, and several more people were killed further up the creek. Ole Sampson and several children were killed, but his wife and infant escaped.

As we continued our journey we came to more breastworks on the little hills, half a mile northwest of the fort. We also saw the heaps of earth where the Indians were buried.

Reaching the fort, our soldier comrades made friends with Sergeant Howard, and secured his permission, which he did not give in many cases, to "squat" on the land we had chosen, which was within the fort reservation.

In due time we reached New Ulm, made arrangements with Mr. Baesch, purchased his land, attended to the legal aspects of the case, and before many days were safe back home in Ettrick.

Iver K. Sysee brought back favorable reports of Kandiyohi county, so two colonies were formed, one bound for Kandiyohi county and one for Renville county. Ole I. Dale, of the original Renville colony, joined the Kandiyohi colony because his son, Iver Dale, had purchased land for him there, but later he came to Renville county and purchased a quarter section in Camp township.

Our Renville colony started out about June 5, 1868, with prairie schooners, oxen, cattle, goods and ample provisions. By way of Winona, Rochester, Kenyon, St. Peter and Ft. Snelling we reached our destination. Upon settling in Camp we started constructing dugouts. Sylvester Olsen and myself tore down the big log house before mentioned, and my uncle, Louis Hanson, and I, managed to build two comfortable underground cabins.

Having five yoke of oxen, by using two yoke on each breaker, we managed to break 70 acres (35 acres on each of our claims), and also to help break for others. Then we built shelter for our stock, cut plenty of grass with our scythes, and made ready for the winter. This done, I went back to Wisconsin to help my father with the harvesting, thus ending my second trip to Renville county.

About the time I arrived home my father, Ole E. Berge, sold his farm, and we spent the winter in making preparations to move to Renville county. The spring was late, the green grass on which it was necessary for the cattle to feed along the way was slow in growing, and it was June 7, 1869, before we got started. In the meantime I had married.

This third trip was not so arduous as the others for I was now well informed and experienced. We traveled with a span of

horses, four yoke of oxen, a lot of live stock, and three well-loaded prairie schooners. Crossing the Mississippi at Winona we followed our old route, reached the Camp settlement, and found all our friends busy at work. Soon after our arrival I deeded to my father who had furnished me the money for my original trips, the 160 acres I had purchased from Werner Baesch, and then I located a claim on the northeast quarter of section 23.

I was now settled in Renville county, ready to take my share in its development.

Before proceeding with the general story of the development of the county, it is fitting that I should here give the names of some of the early settlers whom I remember in the townships in the southeastern part of the county.

In the summer of 1868 the people already living in Camp were: Mathias Johnson, Peter Lahti, Mathias Bogema, John Tweet, Thomas Hill; Thomas Tweet, southeast quarter section 17; Hans Peterson, southwest quarter section 10; Emmanuel Otto, northeast quarter section 8; John Zahn, southeast quarter section 8; Henry Knuff, southwest quarter section 9; Elizabeth Graff (hotel), northeast quarter section 17; — Jones, northwest quarter section 14 (sold to K. Elefson); Thomas Smith, southwest quarter section 14 (sold to Jens Olson); Peter Nelson, who bought land from Christ Slumberger and Dennis O'Shea in section 27; and the early pioneers, A. J. Anderson, Halleck Peterson and John Halvorson.

Those who came to Camp township during the summer of 1868 were: Mathias O. Lee and his father-in-law, Nels O. Orre; Hans O. Boyum, Andrew Nesseth, Siver Nelson, Andrew Nelson, Ole O. Nesburg, William Foley, Daniel O'Neil, Jr., Dennis O'Neil, Hagen Elstad, Ole Hogstad, Eric Lokken, James Maxwell, James Cannon; Louis Hanson (my uncle), east one-half of southwest quarter and south one-half of southeast quarter section 23; Patrick Jordan, southwest quarter section 2; James Smith, southeast quarter section 2; John Galleher, northwest quarter section 12; Pat. Devaney, northeast quarter section 12; John M. Lunde, northeast quarter section 4; Andrew Elden, southeast quarter section 4; Ole Klingenberg, southwest quarter section 25; John Halin, south one-half southeast quarter section 27; Thomas Floren; Sylvester Olson.

In the summer of 1869 the colony in Camp grew very rapidly. I deeded to my father, who had furnished me the money, the 160 acres I had purchased from Werner Baesch, and then I located a claim on the northeast quarter section 23. Others who located claims about this time were: H. S. Johnson, southwest quarter section 24; L. Anderson, northwest quarter section 24; John Sampson, northwest quarter section 25; Halvor Hanson, northeast quarter section 25; Hans C. Jensen, southeast quarter

section 25; John Lee, southeast quarter section 26; Peter Isaacson, northeast quarter section 34; Albert Wiehr, northwest quarter section 13. Robert Wiehr later bought out the claim of James Cannon, southwest quarter section 13. Further west in the township there came that summer John Sather, Christ Lyness, Elef Olson Ole Dybedahl and G. A. Anderson.

Others who came in 1869 or 1870 were: Hans Peterson, John Mundahl, Peter Henry, Swan Gilbertson, Engebret Thompson, Magnus Johnson, Gergen Gilbertson and Ole Peterson. Helleck Anderson settled in sections 1 and 12, south Birch Cooley township, and on a part of his farm the village of Franklin was afterward located.

Among the settlers in Camp in 1870-73 were: John Thompson and brothers, Mons and Christ Thompson; Daniel O'Neil, Sr., E. G. Melvold, L. H. Ruud, A. A. Bergly, Amon A. Berger, Gilbert Olson, Ole Jacobson, Lewis J. Enger, John J. Enger, Jr., John Enger, Sr., A. Hattiestad, I. A. Mathison, John A. Gleason, Ole Melvold, E. Eldswold and others. Most of these men brought claims from others who did not find the Minnesota winters to their liking and who sold out and left for warmer climates.

Among other early settlers of Camp may be mentioned: Hagen Nelson (first settled in section 34, in the Minnesota valley, on a tract mostly covered with timber, and then sold out and bought prairie land, southwest quarter section 3); Ole Nelson, southeast quarter section 9; Engbric Larson, southeast quarter section 15; Thomas Campbell, northeast quarter section 2; Ole Steffenson, section 3; A. Kallou, southwest quarter section 4; Carl Nelson, northwest quarter section 6; Abraham Johnson, northeast quarter section 5 (later sold to John Sallow); Victor Rieke, southwest quarter section 6; C. Graff, northwest quarter section 7; Herman Bethke, northeast quarter section 7; Otto Haack, northeast quarter section 17; Peter Trucke, east one-half southwest quarter section 15; O. J. Boyum and M. C. Nordby, northeast quarter section 15; M. Schones, northeast quarter section 13 (later sold to John Severine).

In Cairo township the Riekies were settled on Mud lake before the massacre. The Dickmyers and others came not long afterward. Among the early settlers in the western part may be mentioned Mason Phelps, Jay Phelps, — Lampher, William Height, Amos Root, — Pierce, Nelson Reed, Hugh Carson, — Winslow, Ed. Kannedy, Henry Behrens, Ditus Rector and others. Some of them sold out during the grasshopper ravages of the middle seventies and moved to other localities.

In 1869 the following settlers came to Cairo: E. H. Grasmoe, Ole O. Lunder, Martin J. Asak, Jacob Peterson, Torger Moe, Hans Evenson, Torkel Evenson, Andrew Thompson, Col. C. H. Hopkins, Sam.

March, Ural Tibbitts, Charles Bird, and Charles H. Nixon. Martin Welsh settled on the northwest quarter section 8, part of the village of Fairfax being platted on his land. John Welsh bought the relinquishment homestead rights of a Mr. Dodge, southeast quarter section 8. N. B. Christman settled in section 33; Seymour Stephens, section 33; James Fullerton, section 16; Charles Dieter, section 12.

Others who settled that year or the next were: M. A. Turner, near Fort Ridgely; Joseph Jullins, a little east of the fort; F. Steinert, section 31; M. A. LaBarron, section 30; F. J. McCanna, section 33; John Sallo, section 30; Henry Craig, section 20; John Buehar, section 21; J. F. Maxwell, section 19; Nels Peterson, section 8; Thomas Crone, section 6; James O'Hara, Sr., section 6; M. Finley, section 10; Feilo Dodge, section 4; Dolphus Smith, section 29; Mike Colman, section 3; William Dodge, section 3; Thomas Greer and Edmond O'Hara. O'Hara was one of the first representatives in the legislature from Renville county. On his homestead, southeast quarter section 5, the village of East Fairfax is located. Most of the men mentioned in this list have sold out, and the German nationality now predominates.

In the early seventies came Seymour Stevens, Ole O. Kinde; Walter Caven, northwest quarter section 6; Peter Gunderson, northwest quarter section 18.

The majority of the early settlers of Cairo township outside of the Rieke settlement were American born, many of them old soldiers. Their neighborhood was called Yankee-town, and was not abandoned until well along in the eighties. Gradually, however, the Germans replaced these early Americans.

Aside from the "Yankees" in Cairo township most of the early settlers in the southeastern part of Renville county were Scandinavians. Later the Germans came in large numbers. Now the German people predominate in Cairo, Wellington and Flora.

Dr. C. S. Knapp was a notable figure of the early days. In 1873 he and his family settled on the northwest quarter section 28, Cairo, coming from Monroe county, Wisconsin. He had three grown-up sons and they attended to the farm toil, while he, an able physician and surgeon, did splendid work in a large field of practice. When Fairfax village was established he opened the first drug store there. In the late eighties he sold out and took up practice in St. Paul. His youngest son, B. W. Knapp, was register of deeds for Renville county for two terms.

In 1869 and 1870 many people settled in Bandon: Peter Sather, John P. Nestande, Peter Holmyr, Iver Brandjord, Paul Knudtson, Gabriel Nelson, T. Peterson, Martin Hagge, Hans Gompolen, Jacob Vollin, Mathias Kelley, Hans Carlson, Gunerus Peterson, Peter Hornseth, Ole Anderson,

J. Holley, Sr., Torger Rindahl, Andrew Torgerson, Louis Olson, Gustav Anderson, and Anton Johnson, all Scandinavians. In the west part a number of Irishmen settled: James Hurley, Patrick Farrell, James Leary, Patrick Cronin, Timothy Carline, Jeremiah Shay, Sr., Jeremiah Shay, Jr., Dennis Farrell, Jeremiah Farrell, Erland Kelly, Cornelius Ryan, Daniel Hamlon and Cornelius Desmond. The Scandinavians who came in 1870-73 were Andrew A. Dahlquist and sons, O. P. Holmyr, Nels Mork and brothers, E. O. Holley, Andrew Hanson, Iver Weikle; S. Schjee and E. Schjee, section 33; Marcus Iverson, section 33; Ole Stefenson, section 34; Ole Knutson, section 4; E. Nelson, section 35; E. Schwarz, section 1; O. F. Schwarz, section 1; Louis Kaester, section 12; L. K. Knudson, section 12; Ole Lee, section 33.

In 1871-75 Bandon township was well settled up. Among those who came may be mentioned: R. O. Ness, northwest quarter section 25; I. A. Mundahl, south one-half section 25; Hans Mundahl, southwest quarter section 36; Eric Iverson and I. E. Mundahl, northwest quarter section 36; Erick Iverson and S. O. Korsmo, northeast quarter section 36; — Murnane, southeast quarter section 36; Ino McGinty, southeast quarter section 24; Peter Lund, southeast quarter section 12; Osolf Olson, southwest quarter section 12; Andrew Dahlquist, southwest quarter section 11; O. O. Auden-gard, section 10; O. O. Kelergard, section 15; Thom Semingsen, section 3; Eric Elevold, section 3.

Bandon is now divided between four nationalities, Irish, Germans, Finns and Scandinavians, the Scandinavian, possibly predominating.

In 1872-73 quite a few settlers, for the most part Irish, took up their homes in the west part of Wellington township. Among them may be mentioned: M. Igo and his son John, section 19; William Fahey, section 8; Patrick Fahey, section 18; — McLane and — Donnelly, section 30; Patrick Garrity, section 32; Michael Ruddy, section 20; Patrick Lavalla, section 28; Dennis Cready, section 30; John Fahey, section 8; Michael Fahey, section 20; Edward Hauna, section 6; William Maxwell, section 5. Thomas Maxwell got over the line in sections 31 and 32. A little later William Carson came to Wellington and settled in sections 15 and 22. The east half of Wellington was settled by Germans. At the present time the town is remarkable for the number of families bearing the name of Kiecker.

As the years passed people got further back on the prairies. Wellington, Martinsburg and Palmyra began to be settled, mostly by Norwegian and Swedish people. Palmyra was noted for its number of Andersons. In the early times there were no less than twenty Andersons settled in one group. It would be almost impossible to name them all. Besides the Andersons

the pioneers of Palmyra in the early seventies were — Gerard, O. A. Erickson, Ole Tinnes, Swan L. Tinnes, Anton Christian-son, Eric Ericson, — Aahl, and J. M. Blad. A feature of Palmyra life in the pioneer times was the sod houses, built of tough prairie sod, plastered with clay mortar inside and out, whitewashed with lime, partitioned, roofed with heavy blue cambric hay, and provided with floors, ceilings and windows. From a distance these structures looked like frame houses. The barns were of the same material. The people in Palmyra were active in starting schools and improving their farms and soon had a splendid community.

C. A. Mork, for several years county register of deeds, was an early settler of Palmyra township. He located in the southwest quarter of section 10. Others who may be mentioned were: O. O. Nordskog, section 16; Carl Daniels, section 31; Ed. Olson, section 33 (he established the Eddsville postoffice); Swein Bergman, section 15; Ole D. Nordskog, section 18; O. Halvorson, section 30; Gilbert Mattson, section 12; E. M. Ericson, section 11; Andrew Anderson, section 13; John Anderson, section 13; Berndt Anderson, section 34; John Anderson, section 34; August Anderson, section 34; C. Landerson, section 34; A. W. Anderson, section 24; Swan Pearson, section 25; J. O. Anderson, section 36; A. Anderson, section 36; J. B. Anderson, section 36; J. B. Johnson, section 26. During the latter part of the seventies the homestead land was taken up, and after the H. & D. railroad came through the railroad land was taken.

While I was away, from August, 1868, to June, 1869, many changes had taken place. The country was settling up. Hundreds of travelers daily were passing along the old government road, some being land-seekers who were going further west to settle, and some being pioneers on their way to and from New Ulm, the trading point. So many travelers, suffering from the cold, had stopped at the home of my uncle, Lewis Hanson, in Camp township, that he had decided to erect a hotel. This hotel, the Three Mile Creek Hotel, was nearly finished when I returned. Many pioneers remember the hospitality of my uncle, both at his cabin and at the hotel. Many were the lives saved at his place in severe storms, and many were the noses, toes and fingers thawed out at his genial fire. Later quite a village grew at this point.

In 1872 T. H. Hafsoe arrived and erected a building which he stocked with general merchandise such as groceries, drygoods and hardware. A postoffice called Renville postoffice was established with Mr. Hafsoe as postmaster, and a stage line was established between New Ulm and Beaver Falls via West Newton, Fort Ridgely, Renville postoffice and later Franklin postoffice. Hagestad & Lee, with Simon Lee as pro-

prietor, erected a general and hardware store and conducted a restaurant and saloon business in connection. Ole Olson opened a blacksmith shop.

In 1873, William Pless erected a water-power grist mill at the mouth of Three Mile creek, and for several years did a rushing business. Later his son-in-law, Herman Kooke, erected a sawmill at the same place. It is interesting to note that the Pless mill stood on the very site of the old log home of Thomas Smith, who was killed in the Massacre. Mrs. Smith sold the place to Christ Slumberger, who in 1867 sold to Peter Nelson.

The postoffice at Three Mile Creek continued to be called Renville for many years. But after the village of Renville station was established, a Renville post-office was also established there. To avoid confusion, the Three Mile creek office had its name changed to Camp.

About 1878, T. H. Hafsoe sold his stock of goods to Louis Thiele, who also succeeded him as postmaster. Thiele sold out to S. P. Nelson, who was also appointed postmaster. Finally the store was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. Only one store was then left on the place, that of H. M. Hagestad, who was appointed postmaster and held the position for several years. Louis Hanson conducted the Three Mile Creek Hotel until 1877, when he sold out to parties who made a failure of it. When the M. & St. L. came through all the small trading posts faded away.

Louis Hanson was born in Granvin, parish of Hardanger, South Bergen bishopy, in 1835, and came to the United States in the spring of 1854, engaging first in agricultural work at Stoughton, Dane county, Wisconsin, and later in lumbering at Stevens Point, in the same state. In 1857 at Cambridge, Wisconsin, he married Aggie O. Drogswald. In the latter part of the same year he moved to Ettrick, Trempealeau county, Wisconsin, and engaged in farming on eighty acres. In 1865 he enlisted as a volunteer and served in the Union army until 1866, when he received his honorable discharge and returned home. Later he sold his farm and he and some of his comrades and friends organized a colony to settle further west. In 1868 he settled on a claim of 160 acres in section 23, Camp township, and engaged in farming. As already related he opened a hotel and enjoyed a flourishing business. His wife died in September, 1877, so he sold his hotel and engaged in farming. He now lives in Greland, Ward county, North Dakota. Mr. Hanson had two sons and four daughters. Henry L. Hanson lives in Fairfax, Minnesota. Julius L. Hanson lives in Greland, North Dakota. The four daughters are happily married and all have comfortable homes.

Victor Rieke in the seventies erected a grist mill which became a famous landmark. It was operated by water from

springs in a ravine gathered in a dam, from which extended a water flume or race about 30 rods long from dam to mill, which dropped the water on top of a 36-foot water wheel which developed the power to run one set of burrs or millstones and all other necessary machinery to make flour. The mill was operated for about twelve years and then sold out. The Victor Rieke mill was located on Spring creek on the Minnesota river bottoms, southwest quarter of northwest quarter of section 18, a mile and a half southeast of the present site of Franklin, on the farm of John Anderson, now owned by Engebret Thompson, who has furnished this history with considerable information regarding these early mills. In his milling ventures Mr. Rieke had Charles Fenske as his partner. Mr. Fenske came to Cairo in 1867, and now lives in Fairfax.

A few rods south of the Rieke mill was a carding and spinning factory, also operated by an overshot water wheel measuring about eighteen feet. This was erected by B. Marschner. He operated it a few years and then sold out to Torvald Jensen, who also operated it for a while and then moved it to Benson, in Swift county, this state, where he started a woolen mill. This Mr. Jensen was an inventor of a snow plow. It was not a rotary, but was equipped with a series of elevators. It was deemed an admirable invention, but Mr. Jensen did not have money enough to put it into practical operation.

A few rods east of the Jensen mill was a small store, in which general merchandise was sold. It was started in 1875 by Herman Rucktachel and operated for about six years, after which it was torn down.

School district No. 1, the first in Renville county, was organized in the western part of Camp and the eastern part of Birch Cooley, and school was held about 1871. District 31 was organized in 1872. Each member of the district contributed two nicely hewed logs, and with little money we managed to get a nice school house 18 by 26, with floor, ceiling and roof all complete. Lottie Cliff taught some twenty-three scholars there for three months that fall.

The second annual election in Camp was held in the spring of 1870 at the home of N. Nelson. Hallek Peterson was elected chairman; Henry Knuff, clerk; H. S. Johnson, assessor; N. O. Berge, treasurer; Henry Knuff, justice; Louis Hanson and John Zahn, constables. Forty dollars were raised that year for expenditures and expenses. Andrew Nelson was the road overseer. He built the first bridge across Three Mile creek, the first bridge in town. At that time all streams had to be forded, whether the water was high or low.

The development of the county has been wonderful. No one in those early days could have foreseen the marvelous progress of the present day, and no present

day resident, unless he has seen, as I have, the county grow from its early infancy, can realize what this region was when I first came here. The span between the two periods has witnessed so vast a change that one must have lived through it to be able to fully realize it.

I have seen the county when the settlers were living in a few scattered shacks near the Minnesota river. I have seen the vast caravans of immigration passing by my door. I have seen people get further and further back on the prairies. I have seen twigs planted on the treeless prairies and seen them develop into great groves. I have seen the first log school houses and churches erected, and seen them replaced by splendid, modern structures. I have seen the settlers living in sod houses, brush lean-tos and log cabins, and these I have seen give way to the beautiful homes of the present day. I have seen the settlers in blizzards and hurricanes, in drouths and floods, in almost starvation, and in privation and sufferings. I have seen them harrassed by mosquitoes and their fields ravaged by grasshoppers. I have seen the ox replaced by the horse, and have seen the horse giving away to the automobile. I have seen home-made machinery giving place to the complicated machinery of the present day. I have seen the railroads come and towns spring up. And, best of all, I have lived to see the county one of the best and most prosperous in the state.

As I have already stated, I found that during my absence from August, 1868, to June, 1869, the country was already showing the march of progress, and the old government trains presented a busy scene of arriving settlers.

In 1870 nearly all the remaining government land in Camp was taken up. There still remained the land grant of the Winona & St. Peter railroad, but even on quarter sections of this a number of settlers squatted, later buying the land from the railroad. Many dwelling houses were erected in 1870, and the township and vicinity began to show considerable improvement, breaking being seen on every side. Horses were considered a luxury in those days, and to the oxen, who thrived without much attention and picked their own living from the rich grass of the prairies belongs much of the credit of turning the sod of this county.

It should be remembered that though the county was being well settled along the Minnesota river, where fuel, water, timber and shelter could be obtained, the settlements extended only a few miles back on the prairies. It did not then seem possible that any one could until many years later live far inland on the treeless prairies, where they would have to weather the winter storms. Yet it was not so many years before the government land in the

county was all taken, and the prairies teeming with human life, dotted with rich farms, beautiful homes and slightly groves.

In 1870, in company with three of my neighbors, I took a trip one Sunday morning in the month of November, across Wellington, then nearly following the town line of Palmyra, and out into Hector, and after leaving Camp we did not see a tree or a house of any kind, yet the land was of the best quality we had yet seen in the state.

Bandon, however, had received quite a few settlers in 1869-70.

In 1871 the people got a little further back on the prairies. In 1872-73 the great tide came. No one who did not live in those days can imagine the thousands of prairie schooners that constantly passed to the westward. In 1868 the government road was in reality a common trail. In 1872-73 it was widened to a road ten to fifteen rods, worn by the immigrant trains and live stock of all kinds. By 1874 this county was fairly well settled for many miles back from the river, and the people continued to pass on to Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Swift and Lac qui Parle counties. Still they streamed in, for on these great prairies there were homes for all.

Much grain was hauled to New Ulm, especially after the railroad reached there in 1871. Steamboats also carried wheat on the Minnesota. Two boats I might mention were the "Tiger" and the "Otter," operated by Captain Jacob Hinderman, of New Ulm, as far up the river as Redwood landing. So there was always a ready market for surplus crops. The land had proved its richness and the settlers were well satisfied with their lot. More and more land was put under cultivation, more and better crops were raised, wheat, oats, barley and other small grains were raised in abundance and were of good quality.

Many land deals and changes in ownership were made in the early days. Before legal titles were obtained these deals were called relinquishments. This was especially prevalent on the military and on lands afterward called railroad lands. Sometimes this resulted poorly for the purchaser, but in most cases the squatter was fairly treated and received pay for his improvements.

The large majority of the early settlers were poor. They had little capital to start on and were almost absolutely dependent on their hard work and good will. As a rule, the men with families started with a wagon, a pair of oxen, and a cow or two. Whenever a man needed help the neighbors all loaned a helping hand. That is the way a new country is settled up. Mutual helpfulness was the motto of the early days in this county. Now it is changed and too many think only of themselves and render service only when they expect a greater service in return.

The grasshopper years, 1874-77, were disastrous ones for the settlers. At the beginning of the year 1874 everything was running smoothly. The prairies were being settled, trees were beginning to grow, more and more land was broken. But on July 3 came the grasshoppers, a plague of which the settlers had never heard of outside the Scriptures. The next day, July 4, was a pleasant sunny day, but at about 10:30 a. m. the hoppers swarmed like a blizzard, seemingly dropping from the skies, and appearing in such clouds that the skies were darkened. At about 4 o'clock in the afternoon they descended on the earth and ate up everything. A week later they departed, after having laid their eggs. The settlers hoped that the hoppers would be killed by the severe winter and in the spring of 1875 the prospects of good crops were promising. But in the middle of May, the insects began to hatch. In five minutes they started eating, and in the three days there was not a spear of green in sight. Even the fence posts were partly devoured. In 1876 the pests came again. The year 1877 saw the last of them, as, by a miracle, they all disappeared in a single night.

Of course the continued ravages of these creatures for four years greatly retarded the growth of the county. Many people became discouraged and left. But, nevertheless, even during these four years, many improvements were made on the homesteads. Fortunately there were bumper crops in counties not visited by the hoppers, and Renville county men were enabled to earn money in the harvest fields.

One of the greatest drawbacks was the fact that so many of the settlers had bought machinery and implements on credit. When the settlers were unable to pay, the companies demanded a bonus of fifteen per cent for every six months that the debt was renewed. So if a man owed \$100 at the beginning of the year, he would owe \$142 at the end of the year. So it took the settlers many years to get out of debt.

But after the grasshopper plague was over conditions began to brighten. The hardships and sufferings were soon forgotten. About 1878 came the H. & D. division of the C., M. & St. Paul. Stations were established along the prairies and a new era was inaugurated.

Following close on this, in 1882, came the M. & St. L. through the southern part of the county. The southern part of the county had then long been settled, but the railroad was a great blessing. The struggles and trials were over; we were now in the midst of civilization and were reaping the rewards of the early hardships. Everything changed. Horses, though more expensive than oxen, were needed for modern machinery, and gradually the lighter and swifter animal took the place of the

patient ox who had made the settlement of the county possible.

The reason for the establishing of two villages, Morton and Franklin, in Camp township is an interesting one. When the railroad was projected, about 1879, each township was asked to vote bonds of \$5,000. This Cairo and Birch Cooley did. Camp did not. So the railroad company established two villages in Birch Cooley and none in Camp. But through a technicality of leaving some few feet unfinished at the end of the line in Morton, the railroad did not receive the \$5,000 from the town which it had rewarded with two stations.

Considerable excitement was caused in Camp in the early nineties when the joyful news was spread that a large coal bed had been discovered in the lower bluffs at the mouth of Hawk creek. Luther Nichols and others from Fairfax made a thorough investigation, and their crew found a good showing of lignite. A vein of some ten inches in thickness was believed to be fairly good. Various examinations were made and expert advice received. Finally Herman Van Hamertt, an expert from the Illinois coal fields, rendered a decision that the indications of a large coal field were favorable, but that the coal was lying at a depth of some 150 or 180 feet. He leased the land and spent considerable money drilling. The drills, however, failed to penetrate the hard pan and Mr. Van Hamertt gave it up, though he was firm in his belief that beneath that hard pan was as good coal as that in the coal fields of Illinois. The first discovery of a lignite deposit was made in the early seventies in the side hills of Three Mile creek, in section 27, at the Pless mill dam. But up to this time the dream of black diamonds in paying quantities in Renville county has not been realized, though lignite exists in several places in Camp township.

The long, hard winters, with their severe snow storms and blizzards, were a great drawback to the settlement of the northwestern prairies. The great blizzard of January 7, 8 and 9, 1873, following a warm, pleasant morning, and resulting in the death of so many Renville county people, has never since been equaled. In recent years the trees which the pioneers have planted have modified the storms.

Floods have also done much damage in the Minnesota valley. In fact, though the valley land is very rich, valuable on account of its timber, and especially adapted to growing corn and hay, and raising stock, the river has been an uncertain proposition. The worst flood known in this region was in the spring of 1873. The bottoms were under water up to the sides of the bluffs on both side, and in many places the water was fourteen feet up on the trunks of the trees, leaving a mark in the bark visible for many years thereafter.

In 1879 came a very peculiar storm. That year we managed to get in a good wheat

crop from the land we seeded. But as we were doing our fall work, we were interrupted on October 15 and 16 by one of the most violent snow storms the county ever experienced. During the evening it started to rain, but turned into a snow blizzard of the worst kind. More than 24 inches of snow fell. The next morning the temperature was about 30 degrees below zero and the wind was blowing (it is said) some seventy miles an hour. No one was prepared for such a storm. Cattle froze to death and some herds ran away and completely disappeared. All the crops were covered with deep snow. The wheat could not be threshed until the next summer, and then it was of very poor quality. A little of the snow melted, but the winter came on and there was some twenty feet of snow on the ground until late the next spring. The new settlers were not prepared, thinking that they had several more weeks to plan for winter, and the sudden and early storm left many in a most desperate condition.

Another record breaker for deep snow was the winter of 1880-81. The snow came in the latter part of February in 1881 and on the prairies reached a depth of some five or six feet, while the bottoms were drifted full. Buildings and small groves were completely buried. For three or four weeks everything was at a standstill. While, fortunately, the temperature was seldom below zero, nevertheless there was a strong wind and much drifting, so that it was impossible to get out and get roads broken. To gather fuel entailed terrible hardships. To save their lives the settlers had to make fuel of hay, furniture, corn, and anything that might be available. Some of the settlers in the Minnesota bottoms hauled fuel and provisions on hand sleds across the great mountain of snow in order that their families and their neighbors might be saved. Finally, in the latter part of February, there came a thaw, followed by cold weather, thus forming a crust hard enough to support even the heaviest teams. But there had been terrible suffering and privation. The settlers learned their lesson that in the future they should prepare for winter as early and as thoroughly as possible.

The summers also had their discomforts. We had dry hot spells, during which terrible northwest hurricanes would sweep over the region with great force and violence, accompanied by severe thunder storms. Many times, especially in the hottest midsummer, these hurricanes would sweep the county several times a year.

But with the cultivation of the land and the planting of trees and groves conditions

are different. There are no more terrible blizzards and nothing like the great hurricanes we used to have. The rainfall is normal, the temperature more mild. But whatever the cause, all settlers will agree that weather conditions are now much different from what they were some thirty or forty years ago.

And now we come to the end of the chapter. One could keep on and on, relating stories of the early days, and calling to mind the personality of the early settlers, upon whose lives, worth and work the present prosperity, stability and position of the county is founded. In this brief article it has been the aim of the writer to say something by which the younger generations may catch just a glimpse of what life was in the county when the settlers came to its wild and virgin soil.

It is fitting, before closing and bidding farewell to those pioneer times, to look back over a half century and note the wonderful progress and development that the sturdy settlers have wrested from the passing years. Today one can ride all over the county, into each and every one of the twenty-seven townships, and find hundreds, and possibly thousands, of fine, well-kept farms and beautiful villages, all breathing of prosperity and happiness, the farmers as well as the business men more than satisfied with the county and the surroundings in general. Times have changed from all standpoints, developments have taken place of which the most hopeful pioneers could never have dreamed. Now we have two railroad systems, good roads everywhere, rural telephones, rural mail delivery and quick transportation. Business men and farmers alike ride in automobiles, and this brings possibilities hidden deep from the vision of the people of fifty years ago.

Nevertheless there is a sad side to it all. Few of the pioneers are left, the county is ruled by the second and third generation. But who can ever forget the men who have made all this possible?

What the next half century has in store for the county and its inhabitants only Providence can know, and we here leave the story for future days to tell.

Editor's Note.—The above story is a greatly condensed version of a manuscript prepared by Mr. Berge, and which, in its entirety, will be presented to the Minnesota State Historical Society. In the original manuscript Mr. Berge portrays in a wonderful manner the story of the progress of the county, step by step. He also includes valuable material about Fort Ridgely. This subject is covered in another chapter in this book.

CHAPTER XLVI.

NEWSPAPERS.

Importance of the Press—First Paper in County—Present Papers—Discontinued Papers—Story of the Week-by-Week Chronicles of the County—
Edited by James R. Landy.

The newspaper of today is the history of tomorrow. The copies distributed, it is true, soon pass from sight. Even in a month from the time a paper is issued it is sometimes difficult to obtain a single copy. But in the newspaper office itself it has been preserved and placed on file. The files become an asset of the office and increase in value as the papers become yellow with age. Here in the musty volumes is found the day by day history of the town, the county, the state. The State Historical Society recognizes the value of the newspaper history, and a complete file of every newspaper in the state is kept in its library. A newspaper is one of the most accurate of all historical sources. The editor of a newspaper not only means to get correct information, but he also gets most of it at its original source, throwing side-lights upon events which are missing in the formal records. Each day, if he edits a daily, each week, if a weekly, his effort stands before the bar of public criticism. His critics are those most intimately interested in the articles published. They do not trust to memory, hearsay, legend or tradition. They are eye or ear witnesses, or star actors in the passing drama. They surely are trustworthy critics. With them the newspaper must pass muster. If facts are not correctly stated they are corrected. The newspaper that is not substantially accurate cannot and does not live. Time gives authenticity. Criticism is forgotten, minor inaccuracies are overlooked, and the newspaper record stands as accepted history. A newspaper is not mere gossip. It is a record of passing events. Reports of buildings, new industries, biographies, social events, religious movements, births, deaths, politics, policies, honors that come to people, crimes that blacken the records, onward and backward movements in progress, disasters, amusements, accidents, epidemics—all make up the newspaper history of a community. It is a mirror of life as it is daily lived, here and now.

The first newspaper in Renville county was the Beaver Falls Gazette, established by J. A. Wells in 1870. It was published for a year and then moved back to Wisconsin. The second newspaper in Renville county survived but one issue. It was printed at Redwood Falls, and issued as a Republican campaign sheet in the fall of 1870. The paper was called the Beaver Falls Globe.

Elsewhere in this work, the vindictiveness and sharp practice in the campaign for the county offices of Renville county, during the fall of 1870, has been referred to; but one little episode may be of interest to the present generation, showing to what length of deception and intrigue those old fellows would go to in accomplishing their ends, then laugh about as a good joke on whoever got the worst of it.

The Republican County Convention had been held at Beaver Falls, the county seat, and only village in the county, in 1870; a full set of county officials had been nominated; as about always happens, some were dissatisfied, and another opposition convention was called to give battle to the "ring" and "bosses," as they had even then begun to style those who were chosen or were in any way successful.

Democrats were hard to find in Renville county, or anywhere in the north, so soon after the war, for that matter, so these bolters and dissatisfied element called this opposition convention the People's Party convention, into which the few who were Democrats flocked with the rebellious Republicans, causing the Republican candidates for county offices no little concern. Then, to make things worse, if possible, the Beaver Falls Gazette, a small weekly newspaper, just started, and the only newspaper in the county, joined the seceders and J. A. Wells, its editor, began to overhaul the pedigree and record of the Republican candidates.

The regular Republican candidates now being somewhat alarmed and thoroughly aroused, called a secret meeting to decide what action should be taken to combat the common enemy. First they must have a newspaper for their side; one that would make the little Beaver Falls Gazette look insignificant in comparison. Arrangements were made with V. C. Seward, publisher and proprietor of the Redwood Falls Gazette, to get out 600 copies of a newspaper to be called the Beaver Falls Globe, at his office in Redwood Falls. A. McGillis, a Canadian of education and ability, was the editor. Chas. S. Hall, brother of D. S. Hall, came from J. K. Moor's Tribune office at St. Peter, where he was working, to Redwood Falls and set up most of the type for the paper. Those days the candidates for office must procure election tickets for the voters and see that they were in the hands of reliable parties at each election precinct. These

tickets were all printed at Seward's Gazette office, where the Globe was being gotten out. Wells, of the Beaver Falls Gazette, got no business from the "regulars." The Globe set forth in its prospectus and editorially that it would supply a long-felt want by giving the people of Beaver Falls and Renville county a real sure enough newspaper, which they were being deprived of by Wells' seven by nine cypher. The Globe was twice the size of the Gazette, with strong editorials, mechanically excellent, and loomed above Wells' Gazette in every way. It held up each and every candidate of the people's party to derision, charging all of them with conduct unfitting them for holding public office, and some of them with crimes which would send them to the penitentiary. Not only that, but they published certificates and affidavits to prove their contentions. It was certainly a very warm number.

All things were still secret, only the members with the password and grip were put wise to what was intended.

The plan was to bring over from Redwood Falls, a few days before election, the Beaver Falls Globe complete and ready for distribution, then start teams to the remote ends of the county with the Globe and election tickets, and begin distributing them as they returned to the county seat. No one at Beaver Falls or anywhere in the county, except the conspirators, knew of the plot that was being worked out, so, four days before election, James Carrothers, candidate for sheriff, and D. S. Hall, candidate for auditor, on the Republican ticket, went over from Beaver Falls to Redwood Falls in the afternoon to get the Globe and election tickets for distribution, according to program, but upon their arrival at Seward's print shop they found that the Globe and election tickets were not ready. The office force were all at work on them, but the old way of picking type and working the hand press was very slow, compared with present day methods, so they waited for the completion of the job. The printing office was locked, and no one could get in without the password. As they wandered around the village in the evening, waiting, they were surprised, and quite suspicious at meeting Ed. O'Hara of Cairo township, this county. Ed. styled himself, and with good reason, the "Father of the Democratic party of Renville county." He was a kind hearted man, a good mixer with many friends, and he could put most of the "boys" under the table in most any old kind of a bout. Politically he was active, putting much of his time in at it. In politics he was crafty and full of schemes to down all opposition to him or his party; hence in meeting him so far from home at that time of night, Hall and Carrothers had good reasons for believing him a spy, which he was, as the People's party could see there "was something in the wind." something was going to drop,

about which they were anxious and would go to any extreme to find out.

O'Hara had just come from the printing office when he met Hall and Carrothers. He heard the presses rattling and the sounds of activity therein, but he was not allowed to enter. He didn't have the password. From Hall he wanted to know what was going on in the print shop. Hall promised to go in and find out for him, if he would stay right where he was until his return. This he agreed to. O'Hara's greatest anxiety was for the election of E. St. Julian Cox, who was a candidate for district judge, on the Democratic ticket. This Hall well knew, so when he went into the office he had a number of straight Republican tickets struck off, with E. St. Julian Cox's name thereon, for district judge, in the place of the regular Republican for that officer. Returning to O'Hara, Hall pledged him to secrecy and made him realize the importance of the information about to be imparted to him. He was then shown the bunch of Republican election tickets, printed for Renville county, with his friend Cox's name thereon for judge, with the information that Renville county Republicans were printing all their tickets that way, with the expectation of some reciprocity on the part of the friends of Captain Cox. This was readily promised, so far as he, O'Hara, was concerned, with no intention of being kept, and he seemed to be so well pleased at what he had found out that he invited the party to the nearest "thirst parlor" for liquid refreshments, where they sojourned, repeating their libations at frequent intervals, until they got O'Hara hotly discussing politics with some belated native, when they gave him the slip, and rushed to the printing office for the election tickets and Globe they had come for.

They found the election tickets completed and packed up in fairly good shape. The Globe was printed but not folded, so they rolled them up, shouldered their burdens and made for the hotel barn, where they had left their team and wagon. Placing their sacred bundles in their wagon, covering them carefully with robes and blankets, even though it was well after midnight, they were about to get out their team and push for Beaver Falls, when it occurred to them that crossing the Minnesota river by ferry boat at that time of night might be questionable, and they decided to remain at the hotel over, night, but get a very early start the next morning. Going into the hotel they found O'Hara, who had been looking for them for some time. He asked for a chance to ride with them to Beaver Falls in the morning, which could not be well refused. To make matters worse, the hotel was crowded and Carrothers and O'Hara were forced to sleep in the same bed, which added to the difficulty of sneaking away from O'Hara, as Carrothers and Hall fully

intended to do. Jim told Hall that he would not go to sleep, and he didn't. Ed. was soon snoring good and plenty. He was very tired, and Jim, who had cautiously taken the front side of the bed, slipped carefully and quietly from between the sheets, joined Hall, and the two of them hastened to the barn. The harness had been left on the horses, and, assuredly, that team was hooked to that wagon with some speed. But just as they were moving out of the hotel yard O'Hara appeared at the door and hailed them for that lift to Beaver Falls. They did not even look around, did not hear him; they were quite deaf about that time, and arrived in Beaver Falls in good season, a little jaded, but still eager for the affray.

The election tickets and Globe were taken to Hall's home. The newspapers had to be folded, and the tickets separated into proper numbered lots for distribution. This was got at by willing hands, but unskilled. They were slow at the work, thus the couriers, teams and outfits which were to start that morning to the remote parts of the county, for the placing of the tickets and distribution of the newspapers, did not get away until afternoon, but the secret had continued to be well kept.

A little before noon O'Hara showed up in Beaver Falls. He had walked from Redwood Falls, a distance of about six miles, and was some peevish at Carrothers and Hall, but upon meeting Carrothers, that gentleman told him that he did not have the heart to wake him up when he was sleeping so sweetly, knowing how late he was up the night before, and how tired he must be, and that his greatest regret and sorrow was in not hearing him hail them in the morning, when they were starting out of the hotel yard, and he had a number of other plausible handouts, winding up by the suggestion that they adjourn to one of the several wet-goods-emporiums, there to dim any wrath remaining, by "whatlu-have," all of which O'Hara accepted, for the time being, with one eye closed.

About noon, that same day, the workers folding the newspapers and separating the election tickets had completed their job and all gone up town for lunch, or something, from D. S. Hall's home. Mrs. Hall was alone in the house, when who should appear at the door but Mr. O'Hara, well known to Mrs. Hall. He told her that her husband had sent him for all the Republican election tickets there in the house, that Mr. Hall was in quite a hurry for them, and that he, O'Hara, would take them right to them. Mrs. Hall had her suspicions, but she told O'Hara that she knew little of tickets or matters political, which was true. O'Hara very politely excused himself and withdrew, saying that he would get some tickets from Hall, but he never did. Cox was in Beaver Falls that day, and O'Hara's object was to see if his, Cox's, name was on all of the Re-

publican election tickets for the county, as district judge, as he was informed by Carrothers and Hall at Redwood Falls. Had he got hold of all the Republican tickets and discovered that the name of his friend Cox was on none of them, he might have made it quite difficult for the Republican candidates to get out more tickets and distribute them to the various polling places in the county in time for the election. It sure was a close call for them, which they fully realized after it was all past.

Captain P. H. Swift, who had been elected to the legislature the year before, but failed to be nominated by the Republicans this year, was on the People's ticket for the same office, against J. S. G. Honnor, the regular Republican nominee. The Rev. N. Swift, a Methodist preacher, was the People's party candidate for county auditor against D. S. Hall, regular. L. W. Dibble, People's, against James Carrothers, regular, for sheriff, Captain P. H. Swift against John M. Dorman for county attorney, and so on down the line.

The Globe gave each candidate on the People's party ticket a very dark brown roast, and even more. The messengers got away that afternoon with the election tickets and newspapers for the remote ends of the county, in fairly good shape, considering the excitement incident to the occasion, and must have placed their election tickets and newspapers in good hands, for the regular Republican ticket, every man on it, was elected by an overwhelming majority.

Both of the newspapers "drew the long bow" in "throwing mud" and making charges against their opponents. What General Sherman said about war certainly applied to those political wolves. At that time it was a sure enough fight, all right.

Soon after the election Wells discontinued the Gazette, returning to Toma, Wisconsin, and to the newspaper business there. Captain P. H. Swift, the same fall, returned to Wisconsin, entered the newspaper business, became prominent among the newspaper men of that state, owning several leading papers. He died at Madison, Wis., within the last year.

The Beaver Falls Globe never appeared again, died then and there, its mission performed it "gave up the ghost."

This incident happened forty-six years ago. Forty-six years is a very short historical period, as history goes, and forty-six years don't cut much figure with eternity. Still, how many are left who engaged in that political death struggle in 1870? Ask them to stand up and be counted. They don't step up—they have practically all passed away. Beaver Falls, then the county seat and only village in Renville county, has disappeared with them. Such a short time ago Beaver Falls was bustling with activity, the citizens and county officials there were full of life, hope

and activity, now all dead and gone. So gradually has all this disappeared, village and all, that we fail to notice or become impressed by it. Nature and an all-wise providence have arranged these things, no doubt, as they should be, but here is food for reflection for some of those now living, just the same.

Of all the candidates named on both the Republican and People's party for county offices that fall of 1870, it is believed that only one of the number still remains alive, a good deal of effort, on the part of the publishers of this work, has failed to find another of that band of political buccanniers of that period, when all was considered fair in politics, as in war, and was the rule rather than the exception.

Darwin S. Hall, from among that number, still lives in Renville county, his home is in Olivia, the county seat, where his good wife and himself are rounding out a well spent life.

In those early days when he was in self-defense exchanging "white lies" with Hon. Edmond O'Hara, he was "playing the game" as others played it. Conditions and times have changed, the heat and turmoil of pioneer days is over.

"Dar" Hall, as he is affectionately called by men, women and children alike, has lived to become the county's most prominent citizen, and throughout this and neighboring counties there is to be found no couple more highly esteemed than he and his wife, and no couple whom the people more delight to honor.

The third newspaper in Renville county was the Renville Times, established in August, 1872, by Darwin S. Hall. In May, 1874, he sold the paper to Henry Kelsey. This, the oldest paper in Renville county, is still in existence at Olivia, under the name of the Olivia Times.

In 1881 there were four papers in Renville county: The Renville Times, at Beaver Falls; the Bird Island Post, and the Bird Island Blizzard, at Bird Island; and the Renville County Union, at Hector.

In 1901 there were eleven papers: The Morton Enterprise, of Morton; the Buffalo Lake News of Buffalo Lake; the Renville County Union, of Bird Island; the Hector Mirror, of Hector; the Star-Farmer, of Renville; the Fairfax Standard, of Fairfax; the Franklin Tribune, of Franklin; the Olivia Times, of Olivia; the Renville Record, of Renville; the Sacred Heart Journal, of Sacred Heart, and the Olivia Press, of Olivia.

In 1911 there were nine papers: The Morton Enterprise, of Morton; the Buffalo Lake News, of Buffalo Lake; the Hector Mirror, of Hector; the Star-Farmer, of Renville; the Fairfax Standard, of Fairfax; the Franklin Tribune, of Franklin; the Olivia Times, of Olivia; the Sacred Heart Journal, of Sacred Heart, and the Bird Island Union, of Bird Island.

There are now ten papers in the county: The Morton Enterprise, of Morton; the Buffalo Lake News, of Buffalo Lake; the Hector Mirror, of Hector; the Star-Farmer, of Renville; the Fairfax Standard, of Fairfax; the Franklin Tribune, of Franklin; the Olivia Times, of Olivia; the Sacred Heart Journal, of Sacred Heart; the Bird Island Union, of Bird Island, and the Danube Review, of Danube.

The Olivia Times was established by Darwin S. Hall at Beaver Falls, as the Renville County Times, in 1872. The Times was the third paper established in the county, the first and second being short lived, and for about fifteen years was the only newspaper published in the county. In 1874 Mr. Hall sold the Times to Henry Kelsey, who guided it through many a bitter contest in pioneer days, and who continued as its editor and publisher for twenty-five years. In 1890 Mr. Kelsey moved the plant to Olivia and ten years later sold it to Wilson & Soule, who changed the name to Olivia Times. H. W. Wilson bought out his partner's interest in 1902 and continued to publish the paper alone until January 1, 1908, when he sold the plant and good will to J. R. Landy, the present publisher. Mr. Landy has equipped the office with new and improved machinery and has one of the most up-to-date offices of any country town in the state. In the great work of development in Renville county the Times has performed a service of incalculable value during the 43 years of its existence and is today numbered among the most influential country newspapers of the state.

The Fairfax Standard. The people of Fairfax and community were given their first local paper in the fall of 1889 when the Fairfax Crescent was issued by the Kane Brothers. The paper consisted of four pages, two printed at Fairfax and two of the variety termed patent. James Kane, now judge of probate of Wilkin county, and John Kane, who died in St. Mary's hospital at Rochester, December 3, 1910, were the publishers of the Arlington Enterprise, and Charles L. Kane, now a prominent attorney of Benson, Minn., was in active charge at Fairfax. The files show that the Crescent, then the only Democratic paper in Renville county, passed into the hands of the Schmidt Brothers in 1891. O. H. Smith (then called O. H. Schmidt), now editor of the Lester Prairie News, had been associated with Mr. Kane as printer from the beginning of the Crescent. For a time after Mr. Kane retired he was sole owner of the plant and then took his brother, F. W., into partnership with him. Later O. H. disposed of his interests to F. W. and returned to his home in Wisconsin to study law. F. W. conducted the Crescent for a time at his residence.

In April of 1892 M. D. Brown, now postmaster of Fairfax, became editor of the

Crescent, the paper under his regime being issued in the frame building now occupied by Knudson's restaurant. Being a staunch Democrat, and the paper the only Democratic paper in the county, Mr. Brown was much in the limelight in Renville county and state politics.

During the year 1895 F. M. Rea became editor of the Crescent, continuing at its helm alone through warm political times, and otherwise. Work became strenuous for Mr. Rea, especially so after he was made postmaster in 1897, and W. F. Mahler, now editor of the Springfield Advance, was taken in as partner in issuing the Crescent, then a four page at home and four page patent.

With the Crescent still existing and expounding things to its liking, Fairfax business and professional men of the Republican type got together and organized the Fairfax Standard Printing Co., and on July 14, 1898, the first issue of the Standard was sent broadcast over this section. A. E. Verity was placed in editorial charge of the Standard and for several weeks the various exchanges of Renville county and immediate section came out with editorials, some expressing sympathy in behalf of Fairfax' newborn paper, while still others expressed regrets for the Crescent. It was very evident that two papers in a place of but 500 population, Fairfax' number in those days could not exist long without one giving way to the other.

On June 8, 1899, the Fairfax Crescent was absorbed by the Standard. A. E. Verity continuing as editor of the Standard and W. F. Mahler, who had been associated with the Crescent, was made local editor of what was then Fairfax' only newspaper. Practically the entire property of the Fairfax Standard Printing Co. was owned by Attorney A. V. Rieke and a few others at that time. On April 25, 1901, A. E. Verity, who had edited the Standard since its birth, bade goodbye to his readers as editor.

The issue of May 2, 1901, shows W. A. Miller at the editorial head. What happened to Miller in that one week certainly must have been enough, for the next issue found Paul F. Dehnel as its editor. Times must have been strenuous ones in the Standard office, for Dehnel remained as editor for only two issues and on May 23, 1901, James S. Mills tried his skill as pilot. He, too, lasted but a short while; it was during his regime as editor that it was demonstrated that John Barleycorn would prevent even a bright and well educated man from publishing a readable paper.

Angus Hay took charge of the Standard on September 12, 1901, and on April 10, 1902, made his first valedictory remarks. For several months the paper was issued without any particular man at its editorial head, but on November 13, 1912, Mr. Hay again took charge, only to make his second and final valedictory on January 1, 1903.

Editor Asa M. Wallace, of Grand Meadow, Minn., but formerly editor of papers at Wykoff, Preston and Chatfield, Minn., took charge of the Standard on January 8, 1903. The plant at that time was housed in a frame building, now remodeled and occupied by A. S. Black's jewelry store. For several years the Standard was published in the building mentioned above and on more than one occasion the force had to brace up the sides and front door to keep the place from collapsing whenever a heavy wind came along.

As time progressed Mr. Wallace added to the equipment of the Standard office, especially so after moving the plant to the frame building now owned and occupied by Will Lenz' bowling alley. Here the wind did not cause the force nor editor much alarm. During cold weather, however, the "devil" found it a difficult task to get things comfortable, and on many a press day lamps had to be lighted and set under the bed and disk preparatory to printing the Standard's four home pages, so cold was the building. The large rollers often had to be thawed out before they could be used, and on several occasions when the foreman went to adjust them to the press, a substance resembling molasses presented itself—the rollers had melted and ran together.

Along in 1908 Mr. Wallace became owner of the plant and in October of 1910 he rented the very spacious and convenient quarters over the First National Bank building, which the paper is still housed in. At the time of moving into new quarters over the bank a large two revolution Campbell printing press was installed and on this the paper—"eight pages home print," is run off. In February of 1911 a Junior Linotype was installed, together with several other improvements in keeping with the village—electric motors taking the place of the troublesome gasoline engine, and electric lights doing away with kerosene and gas lights.

Mr. Wallace, through his efforts in Governor Eberhart's behalf in the campaign of 1910, landed the office of Assistant Fire Marshal of Minnesota, and in early January of 1911 he took Phillip Ploof and I. J. Zettel in as associate editors. The young men, in conjunction with Mr. Wallace, edited the Standard for two years, and in January of 1913 they leased same and operated the plant until December 31, 1914.

On December 14, 1911, a 16-page edition was printed, the young men, Ploof & Zettel, pulling off this stunt without the old man knowing about it until after the issue was out. On August 15, 1912, the Standard office performed a feat that caused the plant and force to be recognized all over Minnesota, in that a 32-page Souvenir Edition commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Ridgely, was printed and circulated broadcast.

Mr. Wallace was not only a valuable man as editor of the Standard, but was a valuable addition to Fairfax, being at the head of many movements of development whereby the village and its people were benefited. He worked for what he thought was for the best interests of Fairfax and community, and though he was hanged in effigy and on a couple occasions had his office windows besmirched with dirt by those who did not agree with him on certain movements of reform, he made the most of his journalistic career here count, and is entitled to great credit for the splendid office which Fairfax and community enjoys today. Mr. Wallace at the present time is owner of the Sauk Centre Herald also, and is giving the people of that section an ideal newspaper.

When Mr. Wallace came to Fairfax in 1903 he employed as his foreman Phillip V. Ploof, of Wykoff, Minn. The young man worked on the Standard practically all of the years that have passed since then, with the exception of one year when he edited the Gibbon Gazette. In January of 1915 Mr. Ploof leased the Standard plant for a term of five years, and that he is making good can best be judged by the splendid support accorded him. On October 14, 1915, he issued a 20-page "Minnesota Booster Edition" that would do credit to a place several times the size of Fairfax. The issue puts Fairfax in the metropolitan class, so far as small villages go.

During the existence of the Standard the paper has been ably edited and today it ranks as one of the leading country papers of Minnesota. As to equipment, few offices in country towns excel, while the force which consists of Carl K. Vincent, foreman, and John Ploof, linotype operator, is one which makes work easier and enables the publisher to give his readers a better paper than would otherwise be the case. The Standard office of today enjoys a splendid business and is endeavoring by fair and courteous treatment to merit the substantial and united support of the business and social interests of Fairfax and community.

The Hector Mirror is nearly a quarter of a century old, and though not the very oldest in the county, it is one of the oldest and one of the best. Much of its early history is lost, as no files were preserved by the publishers previous to 1901.

The first issue of the Hector Mirror appeared on June 15, 1889, and was started by Chas. Corson and Frank Dean, of Owatonna. Since that time the paper has changed hands and editors many times. It was disposed of by Mr. Corson and Mr. Dean to a man by the name of E. E. Cook, now deceased. He was followed by M. B. Childs, and next by Chas. B. Dean. Mr. Dean sold the paper in March, 1904, to The Mirror Printing Co., and moved to Leeds, North Dakota, where he still owns and publishes a paper.

The Mirror Printing Co. remained the owner of the Mirror until three years ago, when they sold out to the present owner and publisher. Ralph Prescott, now editor and postmaster at LeRoy, Minn., ran the Mirror for the Mirror Printing Co. until February 7, 1908. He was followed by A. H. Freeman, now of New York City, who was editor until October 8, 1909. Under the management of Mr. Freeman the Mirror was enlarged, a new press purchased, and a number of improvements made.

From October 8, 1909, to November 8, 1912, the paper was leased by different persons for periods varying from two months to a year and a half. These editors were Dahlstrom and Norin, A. J. Norin, Norin and Darling, H. W. Darling and R. R. Strom.

The present editor, Ernest W. Nobbs, has been at the helm since November 8, 1912, and expects to remain for many years to come. The people of Hector have proven, by their loyal support and patronage, that they are entitled to the best paper that it is possible to publish in a town of this size, and it is the editor's intention to improve the make-up and plant as the years go by.

The Danube Review, published in the thriving and enterprising village of Danube, sometimes called the Baby Village of Renville county, was launched by Wallner Bros. on November 4, 1911. Two years later the senior member, E. C. Wallner, who edited and managed the Review, assumed full proprietorship. Charles A. Heilig leased the Review in June, 1915, and is the present editor.

The Review is a five-column, four-page paper, widely circulated throughout the county, and well patronized by local advertisers. It is independent in politics and published on Thursday of each week.

E. C. Wallner, formerly editor of the Danube Review, has resided in Renville county since early childhood. He first saw the light of day September 25, 1888, in Faribault county, Minnesota. At the age of thirteen he entered the Buffalo Lake News office, where he learned the art of printing and also earned his living. Before locating at Danube he was employed in various newspaper offices in Minnesota.

The Morton Enterprise was established by O. A. Hogue in April, 1886, and conducted by him until April, 1890. It then passed into the hands of Leroy Stegner, who conducted same until October of the same year, when he sold it to Geo. W. Lutz. During the year 1890 the only daily paper in this section of the state was issued at Morton. O. A. Hogue establishing it and publishing a few issues of a small four-page sheet about the size of a small poster. The daily was a failure financially, even with the large force at that time engaged at the quarries for patrons. The field was not large enough and it died a

premature death for lack of support. The Enterprise remained the property of Mr. Lutz until November, 1892, when he sold it to A. E. Hill and a Mr. Treadway under the firm name of Hill & Treadway. In January, 1893, this firm was dissolved and the paper continued by Mr. Hill until April, 1897, when Andy H. Keefe came into possession of it and made of it a successful newspaper and one which ranked among the strongest politically in this section of the state. Under his able management the plant also grew financially and became a money-maker instead of a losing game. In 1901 he sold the plant to R. M. Bottomley, a teacher, who lasted only a few months and landed on the sharp rocks of financial failure. The Enterprise was then revived again by Mr. Keefe, who conducted the same until May, 1902, when he again sold out, this time to Clark E. Gleason, who managed to remain in possession of the editorial chair for four months, and he, too, gave up the unequal struggle to issue a newspaper on faith alone. Hal. E. Rogers was the next victim of the newspaper bug, and from September, 1902, to February, 1903, was the editor of the Enterprise, selling it to A. B. Allen, whose editorial page, "The Growler," gained considerable notoriety and the Enterprise again became a recognized medium of news. In December, 1904, he disposed of his interests therein to Smith & Hill, who continued its publication for a period of one year, when O. W. Smith became sole owner. Mr. Smith continued at the helm for almost seven uneventful years and finally sold it to H. F. Rubey, the present owner, after having managed to publish the paper for a longer period than any other one man since its establishment in 1886. September 1, 1912, was the beginning of a new life for the Enterprise. The old job press which for so many years had ground out its work of one page of a newspaper at a time, and on which so many of the youth of the village had taken their first lessons in the life of a printer, was replaced by a modern high speed cylinder printing press. A machine which at that time was the fastest and finest in the three adjoining counties. The old gasoline engine which had seen such rough usage and received so many cussings on account of its balky habits, was replaced by an electric motor. Other new and modern equipment was added and the plant is being brought up to a first-class condition to meet the growing demand of a continually growing patronage of a better class.

The Bird Island Union. Wesley Moran, practical printer and editor of Kilbourn City, Wis., came to Bird Island in July, 1879, and established the Bird Island Post, the first newspaper published in Bird Island and the fourth in Renville county. It had a promising field and received a good support.

Bird Island was the largest village in

the county, the end of a railroad division, centrally located and bade fair to become the county seat if it could have the loyal and harmonious support of its citizens. But factional feeling crept in and became intensified by the Post siding with one faction instead of trying to harmonize their differences. So with the view of freezing Moran out, another paper, the Bird Island Blizzard, edited by J. M. Bowler, was launched by some public-spirited citizens of the village, the first number appearing April 21, 1881. Among those interested were Joseph Ladd and Geo. H. Magquier. The contest waxed warm for some time and then Moran hoisted the white flag and both papers were sold to B. B. Herbert, an enterprising newspaper publisher of Red Wing, who merged them under the name of the Renville County Union, edited by a practical printer named Edward D. Morris, from Herbert's home office; and thereupon peace was declared.

October 10, 1882, Herbert sold the plant to C. L. Lorraine, an experienced newspaper man from Dodge county, who ran it successfully until February 1, 1891, when he sold it to Cyrus R. Sheppard, a man of sterling character, an early pioneer and prominent educator of Renville county. He was an able supporter of the Farmers' Alliance movement and the People's party.

He sold the paper to George T. Castle in June, 1897. July 1, 1900, M. B. Childs and H. C. Sherwood purchased the paper from Mr. Castle and in July, 1901, Mr. Childs bought out Mr. Sherwood's interest. In November, 1903, the newspaper property was purchased by C. H. Sherwood and the business conducted until January 1, 1911, under the firm name of Sherwood Publishing Co., with H. C. Sherwood as editor and manager. At this time H. C. Sherwood purchased the property from his father, C. H. Sherwood, and now owns the paper. At the time the paper was taken over by C. H. Sherwood the name was changed to Bird Island Union. The plant is now housed in a modernly equipped building and is made up of two cylinder presses, two platen jobbers with individual motors, Junior linotype and other equipment necessary in a first-class newspaper and job office. From a two-page seven-column newspaper the Union has grown to an eight-page all-home print edition, liberally patronized by the business men of the thriving little village in which it was born and in which it has prospered.

The Franklin Tribune, a weekly paper which appears in Franklin every Friday, was established as a legal newspaper April 24, 1899, by A. E. Hill, who published the first issue, April 22, 1898. April 1, 1901, Mr. Hill retired and C. Foley and Daniel Whetstone became the publishers, under the firm name of Foley & Whetstone. Mr. Foley retired February 13, 1902, and Mr. Whetstone became sole owner, publishing

the Tribune until May 14, 1909, when he sold out to the present publisher and editor, Julius L. Jacobs, and went to Cut Bank, Montana, where he established the Cut Bank Pioneer Press.

The village of Franklin prior to Mr. Hill's establishment of the Tribune was served by the Franklin News, which was published for only a short period.

The Renville Star-Farmer. The Renville Star was established in 1888 by M. J. Dowling. In 1891 a rival paper, the Renville Farmer, was started by Welch & Childs. It was short lived and in 1892 M. J. Dowling merged the papers into one, as the Star-Farmer. In 1894 the Star-Farmer Company, a corporation, was organized, Mr. Dowling retaining some of the stock. In 1897 W. A. and Nina Reid, two of the incorporators, purchased all outstanding stock and became owners of the plant. Mr. Reid has been connected with the paper in an editorial capacity for twenty-one years and during that time the plant has been improved from year to year and within the past year a new press has been installed, and cabinets and a Mergenthaler linotype machine have been added to the equipment, thus making it one of the best equipped offices in this part of the state. The paper has the confidence of the community and has a large rural circulation thoroughly covering the field. It is issued every Friday.

The People's Watchman. A Populist paper, was established about 1895 by Captain John R. Lowe, now of Canada, then from South Dakota. The principal backer of the venture was O. T. Ramsland. After Captain Lowe left, O. T. Ramsland and Edward O'Connor secured a controlling interest for a while, with Mr. Ramsland as manager and R. J. Steele as editor. The next editor was Herbert C. Sherwood, who remained some nine months. The paper was then moved to Renville and published for a number of years by H. B. Brooks under the caption: The Renville Record, a continuation of the People's Watchman of Sacred Heart.

The Sacred Heart Journal. When W. B. Strom purchased the Hector Sentinel in 1899, he moved it to Sacred Heart and changed the name to the Sacred Heart Journal. At that time he took Guy H. Small as a partner. The next editor was Harry T. Marsh. Marsh sold the subscription list to the newspaper at Renville, and the presses to people in St. Paul. However, the public-spirited citizens of Sacred Heart raised some money, secured the subscription list and the good will, and put Emanuel Nyman in charge. He was followed by John Cumford, James Fahey, Mabel Sortungstad and the present editor, H. L. Quist.

The Buffalo Lake News was established May 24, 1893, by a Mr. Vance, a Methodist minister, who published the paper one year, selling it to John C. Riebe and Frank

Warner, Jr., in 1894. Two years later, in August, 1896, it passed into the ownership of G. W. Small, who published the paper until September, 1899, when he sold it to J. R. Landy. Mr. Landy published the paper for eight years, selling it in November, 1907, to E. C. Clausen. Four years later, November 1, 1911, the paper was sold by Mr. Clausen to Thomas I. and Robert M. Foster, the present editors.

The Renville County Independent will issue its first publication March 30, 1916. Carl Carlson and Warren Brandt are the editors.

DISCONTINUED PAPERS.

The Fairfax Crescent was established in 1889 at Fairfax, and merged in the Fairfax Standard June 8, 1898. Its history is found elsewhere under the head of the Fairfax Standard.

The Renville Station Weekly News was established in 1879. D. C. Wadsworth was the publisher, and the paper was printed by C. A. Bennett at the office of the Granite Falls Journal in Granite Falls, Minnesota. J. T. Brooks took charge of the paper in 1880. After he relinquished it Mr. Bennett continued to get out the sheet for a while with such local items as were gathered by W. D. Spaulding. It was discontinued in 1881.

The Renville Weekly News was established at Renville in 1887. It was published by C. L. Lorraine and edited by Dr. Ed. M. Clay. It suspended publication in 1888.

The Renville Star was established in 1888 at Renville by M. J. Dowling, editor and publisher. J. C. Spencer was the printer. About 1890, Mr. Dowling sold out to Mr. Spencer. He repurchased it in 1892 when the publication of the Farmer had practically bankrupted both papers. It is now consolidated in the Star-Farmer.

The Renville Farmer was started at Renville by Welch & Childs in 1891. H. B. Brooks was the editor. In 1892 it was purchased by M. J. Dowling, who consolidated it with the Renville Star in the Renville Star-Farmer.

The Franklin News was established in June, 1893, by the Rev. William Wigham, a Methodist Episcopal clergyman who preached in Franklin at irregular intervals. He resurrected the old Farmers' Alliance paper, engaged George E. Johnson to reset an entirely new paper, and conducted it as a Prohibition sheet. George E. Johnson, now of the Atwater Republican-Press, continued to manage the paper for the editor as printer. Mr. Johnson left that fall to work for the Morton Enterprise. The paper did not long continue. The reverend gentleman was not a good business man, and the Prohibition cause was not so popular then as now.

The Farmers' Alliance was established at Franklin by John O'Shea and William Henry. It was discontinued in about a

year. It was later resurrected as the Franklin News.

The **Bird Island Advance** was established in 1904 and discontinued before 1907 with W. H. McMahon as publisher and Simon Finley as editor.

The **Danube Herald** made its appearance in 1904. It was printed at Buffalo Lake by J. R. Landy, and mailed to its subscribers at Danube. Later a printing plant was established at Danube in charge of A. E. Hill, of Morton. The paper continued in existence for several years. Its editors were Alfred Eiselem, F. A. Schroeder and James Moughan.

The **Olivia Review** was established in 1904 and discontinued in March, 1909. Among its editors were B. Barnes, W. H. McMahon, Finley Bros., M. B. Childs and Paul F. Dehnli.

The **Bird Island Post** was established by Wesley Moran in August, 1879, and was published weekly; a general job office was run in connection.

The **Bird Island Blizzard** was established in April, 1881, and was published weekly by James M. Bowler.

The **Sacred Heart Republican** was established at Sacred Heart before 1897 with Knute H. Holien as editor, and discontinued before 1901.

The **Olivia Weekly** was established before 1897 at Olivia and discontinued before 1901. Its editors were Henry Kelsey and E. H. McLeod.

The **Olivia Times-Press** was established before 1903 at Olivia, with H. W. Wilson

as editor, and discontinued before 1905.

The **Olivia Press** was established in 1901 with Lewis F. George as editor and sold to H. W. Wilson, who discontinued it in 1903.

The **Hector Union** was started at Hector about June 1, 1881, by Edward D. Morris, as agent of S. P. Jennison and B. B. Herbert, of Red Wing. It was discontinued after a short time.

The **Hector Sentinel** was started in the early eighties by Attorney D. H. Sage. It was sold to W. P. Strom, who moved it to Sacred Heart and published it as the Sacred Heart Journal with G. H. Small as partner.

The **Renville Record**, a continuation of the People's Watchman, of Sacred Heart, was conducted at Renville for about four years, being discontinued about 1905. H. B. Brooks was the editor and publisher.

The **Sacred Heart Bladet** was a Norwegian paper which flourished for a while. Hans Ristvedt, who had been a newspaper man in Norway, was the principal instigator. Edward O'Connor and O. T. Ramsland owned the paper for a while. Thomas Sharp was one of the editors. Andrew Bromstad was editor and publisher of the publication from 1891 to 1895.

The **Sacred Heart Posten** was established by Knute Holien. It was printed in Norwegian and English, the "patent insides" being in English. After some two years, Mr. Holien sold out to Edward Johnson, who kept it alive for about two years, after which it was discontinued.



